

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson (Chairman)
Marianne Fredericks
Deputy Joyce Nash

Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula

Officers:

Officers:

Chris Pelham	-	Community and Children's Services
Pat Dixon	-	Community and Children's Services
Elizabeth Malton	-	Community and Children's Services
Rachel Green	-	Community and Children's Services
Kirstie Hilton	-	Community and Children's Services
Adam Johnstone	-	Community and Children's Services
Glory Nyero	-	Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	-	Town Clerk's Department
Inspector Ashlie May	-	City of London Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dhruv Patel.

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 7th June 2017 be approved.

Matters arising

Members noted that they would receive a report at their next meeting on the Carers' Strategy and this would include the use of cameras. A Member suggested seeking advice from other teams, within the City of London Corporation, who use cameras for enforcement.

4. **SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND OFSTED IMPROVEMENT**

The subcommittee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Service Improvement Plan and Ofsted Improvements. Members noted that most of the actions had been completed and the progress on 'ambers'.

1. *Given the majority of our Looked After Children and Care Leavers are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, what steps have been taken to address the issues raised by the recent events involving a young Asylum Seeking child and the Parson's Green Bomb?*
2. *Does the Improvement Planning set out in the SIP work consider risks in respect of radicalisation?*

In respect of the recent Palmers Green terrorist attack, a new risk assessment on radicalisation had been added, along with additional training for all staff and support for foster carers. In addition, all new unaccompanied asylum seeker children were included in the national referral system
RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **ANNUAL UPDATE ON THE CUSTODY OF VULNERABLE PERSONS (YOUNG PERSONS, CHILDREN AND MENTAL HEALTH)**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Commissioner, City of London Police, which provided an update on the custody of vulnerable persons.

The high proportion of juveniles restrained with handcuffs was being challenged and the Sub Committee would receive a further report in 6 months' time. Appropriate adult attendance was challenging if the details were not provided by the child. However, the Appropriate Adult Service attended very promptly and officers offered to split data in future reports. Anyone sectioned under the Mental Health Act was referred to hospital and there were very sound procedures in respect of mental health referrals. Should an episode occur during custody, the person would be assessed and referred, if necessary, but Members noted that very few detainees were sectioned.

Members commended the success of Street Triage as a good example of partnership working.

Members asked about recent cases of murder by school children and asked how mental capacity would be determined. Officers advised that detailed risk assessments take place on detention and the Police National Computer (PNC) contained markers on previous criminal activity and possible mental health issues. Officers agreed that there should be a risk assessment specific to children and this matter had been raised at a recent London Policing Forum.

All searches were sensitive and respectful, particularly to gender neutrality and officers were happy to share the procedure with Members. Members were also offered a copy of the Juvenile Detainee Guidance Note.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION CQC INSPECTION - LOOKED AFTER CHILD AND SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN**

Members agreed to defer this report to the next meeting of the Sub Committee as the author had been indisposed at short notice.

7. **SOCIAL WORK MODEL IN THE CITY**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the development of the above vision and ethos in practice.

- *How can we be reassured that the application of this approach will not lead to abandoning core statutory responsibilities , especially when linked to key performance indicators such as timescales for visits, assessments etc..? (This links to the performance Report at no 16 on the agenda)*
- *How will we know that this approach is effective and making the desired impact for our children and families?*

Members noted that looked after children (LACs) in the City really valued their social workers, evidenced from regular feedback and thematic quality reviews. Officers confirmed that this work would not impact on statutory duties.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **PRIVATE FOSTERING**

The Sub Committee received the Private Fostering Report for 2016-17 and noted there had been no private fostering arrangements identified in the City for 2016-17.

*Are we satisfied that we are doing all we can to raise awareness around this?
Have we liaised with health services to get their support to raise awareness?*

Officers accepted that community engagement could be improved and were working on language and culture-friendly communications, with particular sensitivities to family fostering. Members noted the success of the new private fostering app, which had been launched last year and was praised by Ofsted for raising awareness. Officers were also planning more work in schools and health services.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **DESIGNATED OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-17**

The Sub Committee received the Annual Designated Officer (DO) report for 2016-17.

- *Given the increase in referrals from 2 years ago, why do we think that the numbers dropped off in the last year?*

- *Did we maintain our high levels of awareness raising or did they drop off?*

Members noted the DO's work with Hackney's DO and the Metropolitan and City of London Police in respect of professional allegations and the training offered in various scenarios. The officer explained the importance of balancing confidence in raising allegations with the potential and severe impact of unfounded ones and this may have caused the numbers to drop.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **EDUCATION AND EARLY YEAR'S SERVICE SAFEGUARDING UPDATE**

The Sub Committee received the Education and Early Years' Service Safeguarding Update which demonstrated the work carried out over the past year.

- *How do we ensure that children educated at home are safe if they are not interacting with other services?*
- *The report helpfully references the learning from the Hackney case review of a tragic child death, in particular in terms of school procedures. More generally, how do we ensure that learning from reviews does help our practice in the City , especially given our much smaller size and fact we have not had any Serious Case Reviews in the City?*

Members noted a clear policy was in place for home education and all visits were recorded. Whilst there was no statutory duty to visit, education staff tried to make 2 visits a year, maintained regular contact via telephone, and Education Welfare Consultants also attended the visits. The visits also sought to identify parents with medical problems or access difficulties. The Local Authority were always notified of a child being removed from education and, given the financial responsibility on parents when their children sit exams away from school, they are often returned to school at this stage. Officers advised that, as part of the current service restructure, relationships with schools were being strengthened to ensure a holistic approach. Members noted that all City of London children attended external secondary schools and the Early Help Service provided new mothers with information on services available.

In respect of the tragic child death in Hackney, Members noted there would be a case review meeting the next day and Social Workers used a flow chart which concentrated on the first 3 days of a child missing education.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

Members noted that, due to a lack of business the next meeting of the Sub Committee would be cancelled. The next meeting would take place on 6th February 2018.

13. **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
14 - 19	1

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2017 were approved.

15. **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of suicide prevention in the City of London.

16. **CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR QUARTER 4 AND YEAR END 2016/17**

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

17. **ADULT SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items of business

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

Chairman

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