

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Monday, 7 June 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee held virtually on Monday, 7 June 2021 at 2.30 pm

Present

Members:

Ruby Sayed (Chairman)	Marianne Fredericks
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)	Susan Pearson
Mary Durcan	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Helen Fentimen	

In Attendance

Officers:

Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Phillips	- Town Clerk's Department
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department
Sharon Cushnie	- Community & Children's Services
Pat Dixon	- Community & Children's Services
Kirstie Hilton	- Community & Children's Services
Scott Myers	- Community & Children's Services
Glory Nyero	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services
Teresa Shortland	- Community & Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community & Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES

Deputy Elizabeth Rogula called on Marianne Fredericks as the most senior Common Councillor to take the chair ahead of the election of a Chairman.

There were no apologies.

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

There were none.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference of the Safeguarding Sub-Committee were received, noting that the composition should be amended to reflect that membership would be sought from the wider Court of Common Council as there was one vacancy on the sub-committee.

4. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Members elected a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member willing to serve, Ruby Sayed be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Members elected a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member willing to serve, Randall Anderson be elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting held on 8 February 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

7. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received the sub-committee's list of outstanding actions, noting that both actions had been completed.

8. **GLOSSARIES**

The glossaries were read in conjunction with the various reports.

9. **MISSING FROM HOME, CARE AND EDUCATION REVIEW**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services in respect of the Missing from Home, Care and Education Strategy Review. Members were informed that the strategy is reviewed annually. In the past year, the vulnerable children list was added to the strategy during the first COVID lockdown, and the number of elected home-educated children had increased. There were no children from home who went missing and there were 7 Children in Care who had a period of mission (which was less than the previous year).

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

10. **SHORT BREAKS STRATEGY**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services in respect of the Short Breaks Strategy. At the height of the Covid crisis, the City was quick to adapt the strategy to allow parents to have more autonomy in how short break allocations were used.

In response to whether the City proactively offered short breaks to families, Members were informed that families had the option to initiate access to short breaks, and that families in early help programmes were offered short breaks based on needs assessments.

With respect to use of funds, in the past year, due to the pandemic, short breaks money had been used for electronics, books, toys and other outdoor equipment.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

11. **CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services in respect of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and its annual update. There was one change to the policy to include modern slavery and self-neglect as a type of abuse, and the wording was taken from the Care Act 2014 Guidance. The policy would next be reviewed in June 2022.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

12. **QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - REVISED AND UPDATED**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services in respect of the revised and updated Quality Assurance Framework. Members were informed that the auditing process had changed in that auditing forms were outcome focused rather than procedure focused, and the auditing cycle was adjusted. Members were informed that an audit had recently been completed and initial findings were very positive in terms of outcomes and learning. An update on the findings will come back to Members.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

13. **SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services in respect of the Service Development Plan for Children's Social Care and Early Help.

Members were informed that most Ofsted actions were completed, with one outstanding which had been impacted by the Target Operating Model (TOM). This action will hopefully be completed within the next month, subject to the TOM timeline.

In response to Members' concerns regarding Covid transmission in schools, it was noted that Covid numbers in City schools had been contained and testing in schools went well. There were discussions regarding vaccinating school-age children from age 12, but this had not been confirmed.

In response to Members' concerns regarding mental health issues for young people, the City worked in partnership with Hackney to address mental health in schools. The East London NHS Trust had just launched a mental health in schools steering group which would develop a mental health in schools offer, and officers from the City are involved in this.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

14. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services in respect of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) update. Strategy priorities were highlighted, including resuming school psychologist visits and assessing needs and progress of SEND children. The parent-carer forum had been reviewed and refreshed. With respect to the focus on transition

to adulthood, a Task-and-Finish Group was established which included wide representation of colleagues across adult and children social care, education colleagues, Culture Mile, employment and apprentices to set up strands of work for SEND young people. The taskforce's first meeting was scheduled for the following week.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

15. **QUESTIONS OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

17. **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 I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

18. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 February 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

19. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE PERFORMANCE - MONTH 12 2020/21 (MARCH 2021)**

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 3.17 pm

Chairman

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