

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 June 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Mary Durcan

Anne Corbett

Helen Fentimen (Deputy Chairman)

Officers:

Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director, People, Community and Children's Services
Rachel Talmage	- Community and Children's Services
Sacha Lewis	- Community and Children's Services
Greg Knight	- Community and Children's Services
Emma Masters	- Community and Children's Services
Keisha Nurse	- Community and Children's Services
Pat Dixon	- Community and Children's Services
Hannah Dobbin	- Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ceri Wilkins, Ruby Sayed (Chair), Ben Murphy and Joanne Abeyie. Ben Murphy and Joanne Abeyie joined the meeting remotely. Helen Fentimen took the Chair.

Before commencing the business on the agenda, the Chair advised that this would be the last meeting for Pat Dixon, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), who is retiring at the end of the month. Members noted that Pat had been with the City of London Corporation for 15 years and was key to the Department's recent Outstanding Judgement in 2020 and the successful Focussed Visit in 2022. Pat has undertaken a number of senior roles; i.e. - Head of Children's Social Care, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Local Authority Designated Officer and Principal Social Worker. Pat has supported our children in care and care leavers through her management of the Reviewing and Participation Service. The Sub Committee thanked Pat for her hard work and commitment and welcomed Laura Demetriades, who would be taking over as LADO.

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

Mary Durcan advised that her son and daughter-in-law had become registered foster carers for the London Borough of Hackney and she had also been approved to provide overnight care. Whilst this did not warrant a Declaration of

Interest as such, the Assistant Director, People, thanked the Member for flagging this and offered advice and support if required.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2023 be approved.

4. **CARE LEAVER COMPACT**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Pan London Care Leavers Compact, which provides a framework for developing consistency, breadth and quality in the support offered to London's care leavers. Member noted progress against the Compact and areas for development in 2023–24, noting the Department's ambition to achieve an excellent outcome for every child.

A Member asked if the £300 laptop budget could be reviewed, in order to obtain a higher specification. During a discussion on ringfencing of apprenticeships, Members noted that this had not been possible in the past, due to limitations on immigration status. Whilst officers were seeking protection for this group under equality legislation, a Member asked if this could be tried first, without the need for ringfencing. Members also noted the Chief Executive/Town Clerk's interest in working with City businesses offering apprenticeships and mentoring for young people, and in re-introducing such a scheme at the City Corporation.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **UNREGULATED PLACEMENT COMMISSIONING AND OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on the Corporation's current placements activity within semi-independent supported accommodation (SISA) settings. Members noted the current and proposed programme of contract management and monitoring for 16- and 17-year-olds, in preparation for Ofsted's Regulatory Framework, and the overall programme for young people up to the age of 25.

Members noted that, whilst is this unregulated, internal feedback can be provided as part of the framework with the Commissioning Alliance. Officers confirmed that they are not aware of any concerns.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SAFEGUARDING PERFORMANCE REPORT Q4 2022/23**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on performance.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE PERFORMANCE - MONTH 12 2022/23 (MARCH 2023)**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided an update on performance.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION FRAMEWORK - CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC)**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services and noted that the new Health and Care Act 2022 gives new powers to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to provide a meaningful and independent assessment of care, at a local authority and integrated care system level, starting in April 2023.

Members noted that, in response to this requirement, Adult Social Care is undertaking a self-evaluation against the Assessment Framework for local authority assurance and its four quality themes. The officer presented headlines from a Peer Review, which had taken place the previous week and advised that, once the full report had been published, it would be used to prepare an action plan. Overall, initial feedback had been very positive.

The officer advised that 'lived experience' had been the subject of discussions with the Safeguarding Adults Board over the past few years but it had not been successful, either locally or nationally. However, those on the edge of social care might be more willing to participate. Common Councillor, Joanne Abeyie, advised that she is familiar with this area of work and offered assistance.

Members noted that full grant funding is available to meet the cost of the programme in this financial year. The Chair advised that the recent Community and Children's Services Committee Awayday had suggested a deep dive into funding pressures.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **EARLY HELP STRATEGY**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the City of London Corporation's new Early Help Strategy 2023–2026.

Members noted that, despite being widely promoted by partners, there had not been any user feedback. The Officer had met with the Housing Team, in respect of promoting the service during home visits, and had arranged a meeting at the Neaman Practice for the following week. The Deputy Chair welcomed this initiative, as the Estate Offices provide a good central location for promoting Early Help Services. Members noted that multi-agency meetings take place every 2 months with key stakeholders and include representatives from the libraries and children's centres.

In response to a question, Members noted that incidents are raised in supervision sessions before being escalated to the relevant service and recorded on 'MOSAIC', in order to track any patterns. The Partnership Board had recently received a report seeking to address proportionality in terms of needs being met.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-23

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Children's Social Care and Early Help Service Development Plan, which has been fully refreshed for 2023–24. Members noted the range of work supporting resident children in need of help and protection in the City of London.

In response to a suggestion, the Sub Committee noted that BSL training for Early Help Social Workers would be offered at level 2. In respect of the travel pass initiative, the Chair of Community and Children's Services had asked for a report seeking approval for initial funding, pending confirmation of full TfL funding.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT 2022 TO 2023

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services and noted that, whilst there has been no private fostering arrangements identified in the City of London in 2022- 2023, the report advised how the City of London Corporation has met the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering by raising awareness. Members noted that the City of London has been promoting private fostering through the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) app, the distribution of leaflets to partner agencies and through multi-agency meetings. It was suggested that this subject be included in the next 'All Member Briefing' on Corporate Parenting.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. LOCAL AUTHORITIES DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO) ANNUAL REPORT 2022 TO 2023

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which advised Members of LADO activity between April 2022 and March 2023; as incorporated in the LADO Annual Report.

Members noted the positive dialogue with the City of London Police (CoLP) and the Assistant Director, People, advised that he would be seeking regular attendance of an officer (from COLP) at future meetings of this Sub Committee. Members also noted that, as there are many agencies based in the City of London, the LADO is often involved when incidents occur in surrounding local

authorities. The LADO also works with neighbouring authorities to address any performance issues with agencies and to share cross boundary issues.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - UPDATED MARCH 2023

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Quality Assurance Framework, which was reviewed and updated in March 2023.

Members noted that students are often engaged on serious case reviews, as part of their career development, and senior officers produce the action learning sets. The officer confirmed that all staff will be signing up to the NSC briefing, and the City of London Police have been offered training as part of the work of the Multi Agency Safeguarding/Child Exploitation Panel (MACE).

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

14. CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 AND CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY UPDATE

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the performance of the City of London Corporation as a corporate parent, and the outcomes achieved for the children in its care between April 2022 and March 2023. Members also noted that the Corporate Parenting Strategy has been reviewed, with no significant changes made.

Members noted that all Looked after Children (LAC) and Children in Care are offered a property on one of the City's estates, given the lack of available accommodation within the square mile itself. This includes young people with complex needs, as part of their lifelong transition plans.

The Assistant Director advised that there would be a celebratory event for young people in the autumn, to celebrate their success and achievements. The details would be shared in due course and all Sub Committee Members would be very welcome to attend.

RESOLVED, that – the report be 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

A Member raised safety concerns about children on Golden Lane using abandoned Lime bikes and scooters. The Members had informed the City of London Police, Streets and Walkways officers and the local Schools. As some deaths had been recorded nationally, the Member felt strongly that this should be a joined up safeguarding matter. Members noted a meeting had been scheduled with the School Youth Provider, who has been doing additional

outreach on the estates. Members noted that the Cripplegate Ward Councillors had also arranged to meet with Lime Bikes. The Assistant Director, People, agreed to explore if this had been an issue raised at the Child Death Overview Panel- which we sit on alongside other North East London Local Authorities. It would be raised during routine visits to parents where relevant .

Members asked for sensitivities around the terminology, noting that the children concerned are often around 7 or 8 years old, so it should not be categorised as 'anti-social behaviour'.

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.

Item	Paragraph
18-19	1 & 2

18. ADULT PERFORMANCE REPORT - NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX

The Sub Committee received a non-public appendix in respect of agenda item 6.

19. CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE REPORT - NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX

The Sub Committee received a non-public appendix in respect of agenda item 7. Members noted an update on the young people not in employment or training (NEET). The Officer advised that regular meetings take place with the Virtual Head, where short courses and apprenticeships are offered.

Members asked about how they could interrogate the data more effectively given the scale and scope of it. Officers advised that all performance data will be moving onto 'Power BI' which allows better visualisation, ease of use and better analysis.

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 were no items.

The meeting closed at 11.15 am

Chairman