



Community & Children's Services Committee

Date: FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2024
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie	Laura Jørgensen
John Absalom	Alderman Alastair King DL
Munsur Ali	Deputy Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Shahnan Bakth	Alderman Christopher Makin
Jamel Banda	Timothy James McNally
Matthew Bell	Eamonn Mullally
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Henrika Priest
Anne Corbett	Deputy Nighat Qureishi
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza	Beverely Ryan
Mary Durcan	Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman)
Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Chairman)	Tom Sleigh
Deputy John Fletcher	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Dawn Frampton	Jacqui Webster
Steve Goodman OBE	Deputy Ceri Wilkins
Deputy Madush Gupta	David Williams
Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE	Philip Woodhouse

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

PLEASE NOTE: Items marked “*” which are ‘for information’ and/or HAVE been considered by the various Sub Committees will be taken without discussion unless the Clerk is advised prior to the meeting

Part 1 - Public Reports

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public and non-public summary of the minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 4 July 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 7 - 16)

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

To receive the outstanding actions list.

For Information
(Pages 17 - 18)

5. **EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS FOR THE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 19 - 22)

6. ***REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY POWERS**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 23 - 24)

7. ***TACKLING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF ROUGH SLEEPING**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 25 - 28)

8. ***EDUCATION STRATEGY UPDATE**

Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 29 - 48)

9. ***THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) PEER REVIEW**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 49 - 100)

10. ***LEASEHOLD AND FREEHOLD REFORM ACT 2024**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 101 - 108)

11. ***COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (NON-HOUSING) REVENUE OUTTURN FORECAST AS AT QUARTER 1 2024/25**

Joint report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain.

For Information
(Pages 109 - 112)

12. ***WARDMOTE UPDATES**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 113 - 116)

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

15. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION - 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.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public Reports

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 4 July 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 117 - 124)

17. **OUTSTANDING ACTION NON-PUBLIC**

To receive the Outstanding Actions List.

For Decision
(Pages 125 - 128)

18. ***REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY POWERS**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 129 - 132)

19. **GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE - UPDATE**

The Executive Director, Community and Children's Services to be heard.

For Discussion

20. **YORK WAY ESTATE PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING**

Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Decision
(Pages 133 - 154)

21. ***CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI)**

Report of the City Surveyor.

For Information
(Pages 155 - 178)

22. ***SYDENHAM HILL REDEVELOPMENT, LEWISHAM, SE26 6ND**

Report of the City Surveyor.

For Information

(Pages 179 - 192)

23. ***HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS – PROCUREMENT
STAGE 1 REPORT**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services.

For Information
(Pages 193 - 208)

24. ***FINANCE UPDATE AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR CITY OF LONDON
COMBINED RELIEF OF POVERTY (CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER
1073660)**

Joint report of the City Bridge Foundation and Chamberlain.

For Information
(Pages 209 - 232)

25. **EASTERN BASE MIDDLESEX STREET LONDON E1 7AD**

Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services.

For Decision
(Pages 233 - 252)

26. **PROJECT CLOSURES - ALDERSGATE SCHOOL EXTENSION AND MIDDLESEX
STREET RETAIL PARK**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 253 - 258)

27. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

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

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4 July 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 4 July 2024 at 12.00 pm

Present

Members:

Matthew Bell	Deputy Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Anne Corbett	Eamonn Mullally
Mary Durcan	Beverley Ryan
Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Chairman)	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Deputy John Fletcher	Jacqui Webster
Dawn Frampton	Deputy Ceri Wilkins
Steve Goodman OBE	

Officers:

Deborah Bell	- Community & Children's Services Department
Emma Bushell	- City Surveyor's Department
Peta Caine	- Community & Children's Services Department
Steve Chandler	- City Surveyor's Department
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Andrew Cusack	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Liam Gillespie	- Community and Children's Services Department
Barbara Hamilton	- Community & Children's Services Department
Kirstie Hilton	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Rachel Levy	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Lovitt	- Community & Children's Services Department
Will Norman	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services Department
Julia Pridham	- City Bridge Foundation
Dan Sanders	- Community & Children's Services Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Communications & External Affairs
Ellie Ward	- Community & Children's Services Department
Pam Wharfe	- Community & Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Christopher Makin, Alderman Prem Goyal, Deputy Nighat Qureishi, Timothy McNally, Ruby Sayed and Deputy Philip Woodhouse.

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

There was one declaration from Eamonn Mullally concerning his involvement in the 'Young at Heart' programme is run in partnership with Golden Lane Sport & Fitness and would therefore not participate in the vote regarding item 41a.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That, the public and non-public summary of the meeting held on 1 May 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

The following points were noted:

- Window Replacements: There were several reports (31 to 35) relating to window works. The specific issue around the working together guidance is likely to be brought back in December.
- Asset Management Strategy: This is expected to be addressed in October.
- Golden Lane Leisure Centre: The relevant report is in the supplementary packet 41A.
- Financial Support for Major Works: This was scheduled for July but is now expected in the autumn.
- Housing Complaints: The relevant report is 25A.
- SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities): The peer review feedback has been received and will lead to an amended SEND strategy to be brought to the committee in September.
- Member Engagement on Housing Estates: This is expected to be addressed in October.

5. **TO ELECT A MEMBER TO THE PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT SUB COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED – That, Eamonn Mullally be appointed to the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **TO ELECT A MEMBER FROM THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL TO THE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED – That, Eamonn Mullally be appointed to the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

7. **HOUSING COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning actions contained in the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee action tracker, relating to housing complaints and the potential use of arbitration as a means of resolving complaints.

Members noted that the item would be discussed under any other business 25a.

8. **HOUSING NET ZERO DELIVERY PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning Agree the reporting cycle for complaints matters proposed in section 11.

The following points were noted:

- The Committee discussed the challenges of meeting the net zero target by 2027 and the need for a plan to achieve it.
- The Committee was asked to agree to proceed with work to integrate retrofit archetypes into the asset management strategy and to embark on a retrofit void program.
- The Committee discussed the challenges of switching fuel sources from gas to electricity and the potential impact on residents' bills.
- The Committee discussed the importance of reducing the demand for heat within properties through sensible insulation.
- The Committee approved the recommendations on page 53, including the addition of integrating climate action and HRA development programs into a single program of works.

RESOLVED – That Members,

- a) Agree the recommended approach to integrating consideration of the Retrofit Archetypes and measures into the forthcoming Housing Asset Management Strategy.
- b) Agree the recommended pilot energy void programme and negate the two-week void KPI.
- c) Agree the recommended priorities in paragraph 10.
- d) Agree the recommended approach of joining the London Councils' Strategic Partnership to access SHDF funding.

9. **HOLLOWAY PARK**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning a request from Peabody's lawyers to rectify the double registration which affects both of the City of London Corporations respective title plans.

The following points were noted:

- The Committee discussed the issue of double registration of Holloway Park, which was discovered during the redevelopment of the Holloway prison site by Peabody.
- It was noted that the area in question is physically in possession of the Peabody site and not in possession of the City of London side.
- The Committee approved the decision to rectify the double registration.

RESOLVED – That Members, agree to the transfer of the overlapping strip of land from the City's Title AGL362129, as shown tinted blue on the plan in the appendix, to Peabody for a nominal payment of £1.

10. **FUTURE PLANNING FOR SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL (SWEP)**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning how and why the City of London delivers a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and the methodology currently in use.

The following points were noted:

- The Committee was presented with three options for delivering a more resilient swept model in the future.
- It was noted that option A was to change nothing, Option B retained current service delivery but described how an increased budget offers greater flexibility and reduces the risk of departmental overspend, and Option C set out a more comprehensive swept model designed to meet current and future swept demands.
- Members were informed that the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee supports Option C and recommended this option to the Community and Children's Services Committee for consideration.
- It was noted that an endorsement of Option C meant that Members were supporting the progression of this proposal via the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee as part of a future budget setting process.

RESOLVED – That Members endorse the recommendation made by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee to progress option C as outlined in the report.

11. **CARE LEAVER OFFER**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning the fully revised offer to Care Leavers supported by the City of London.

The following points were noted:

- It was noted that the offer had been recommended by the Safeguarding Sub-Committee and would not cost any more money than what was already available.
- Officers informed Members that the offer was ambitious and Ofsted would judge the Committee on it, but most importantly, the children would thrive in their care.
- Members were informed that the offer was available in the top 8 languages and would also be available in audio form for children and young people.
- The committee approved the care leaver offer.

RESOLVED – That Members, approve the offer as outlined in the report.

12. **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SERVICES ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning the additional duties placed on the City of London Corporation's (CoL's) Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Team (HRST) by the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (DAA 2021).

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

13. **EMERGENCY AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENTS – STAGE 1 STRATEGY REPORT AND STAGE 2 AWARD REPORT ***

The Committee received a joint report of the Commercial Director and Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, concerning the recommended procurement strategy to access Emergency and Temporary Accommodation.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

14. **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UPDATE ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, concerning the allocation of primary and secondary school places for City of London resident pupils for the academic year 2024/25.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

15. **ADULT SKILLS, EDUCATION AND APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, concerning an update of the Adult Skills Education and Apprenticeship Service’s delivery activities.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

16. **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE REFORM ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, concerning an update for Members on the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) Department for Community and Children’s Services (DCCS) response to the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) Children’s Social Care reform programme.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

17. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELF-ASSESSMENT ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, concerning the City of London Corporation’s Adult Social Care Self-Assessment 2024, which will support the inspection of our Adult Social Care services by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

18. **PAN LONDON CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services, concerning the work underway as part of the Pan London Children in Care Council (CiCC), which is jointly funded by the City of London Corporation and Association of London Directors of Children’s Services (ALDCS).

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

19. **EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - UPDATE***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning an update Members on the progress of the Violence Against Women and Girls campaign approved in November 2023.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

20. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2023/24 - COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CITY FUND) ***

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning the 2023/24 revenue outturn for the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services overseen by your Committee with the final agreed budget for the year.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

21. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) OUTTURN 2023-24 ***

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning the outturn for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2023/24 with the final agreed budget for the year.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

22. **WARDMOTES**

The Committee received resolutions from recent Wardmotes.

It was noted that a full report addressing the wardmote resolutions would be brought back to a future Committee.

23. **UPDATES FROM SUB COMMITTEES, ALLOCATED MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

There were no updates from sub-committees, allocated Members or Portfolio Holders.

The item was received for information and there were no arising questions.

24. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There was a question raised by a Member concerning late cancellations and lack of access at Golden Lane pool.

Officers responded and explained that the problem was caused by the pool operator, who had a staff shortage issue and could not provide enough lifeguards. They also noted that they was trying to meet with the pool operator's

director, however there were some insurance and emergency planning issues to resolve.

25. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was one item of urgent business concerning Housing Complaints Update.

25.1 **Complaints Policy Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, concerning approving the updated Housing Complaints Policy for use by the Housing Division.

The following points were noted:

- The policy was amended considering recent changes brought in by the Housing Ombudsman to the complaint handling code.
- The amendments were designed to help comply with the letter of that code.
- The housing complaints team manages complaints on behalf of the Barbican.
- The updated policy would be publicised to residents.

RESOLVED – That Members, approve the updated Housing Complaints Policy for use by the Housing Division.

26. **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.

27. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the of the meeting held on 1 May 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

28. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the non-public outstanding actions list.

29. **CHARITIES REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS – THE CITY OF LONDON ALMSHOUSES (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1005857)**

The Committee considered a report of the Acting Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation.

30. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) COMMERCIAL PROPERTY - DEBT POSITION, PROGRESS AGAINST ARREARS RECOVERY AND VACANT UNITS ***

The Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, The City Surveyor and Executive Director, Property.

31. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT AND COMMON PARTS REDECORATIONS: HOLLOWAY ESTATE**
The Committee considered a report the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
32. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT AND COMMON PARTS REDECORATIONS: SOUTHWARK ESTATES**
The Committee considered a report the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
33. **WINDOW REPLACEMENT AND COMMON PARTS REDECORATIONS: SYDENHAM HILL**
The Committee considered a report the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
34. **REPLACEMENT AND COMMON PARTS REDECORATIONS: WINDSOR HOUSE**
35. **ASSESSMENT CENTRE FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS**
The Committee considered a joint report of the City Surveyor and Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
36. **SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITY INVESTMENT - OPTIONS APPRAISAL**
The item was considered under item 41a.
37. **SHOE LANE LIBRARY TERMS AND SPECIFICATION**
The Committee considered a report the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
38. **EXTENSION TO LIFT CONTRACT ***
The Committee received a report the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
39. **NON PUBLIC APPENDICES ***
The appendices were noted by the Committee.
 - 39.1 **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol**
 - 39.2 **School Admissions**
40. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
41. **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 urgent business concerning Sport and Leisure Facility Investment.

41.1 Sport & Leisure Facility Investment – Options Appraisal

The Committee considered a joint report of Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services and Executive Director, Corporate Communications and External Affairs.

41.2 Sydenham Hill Redevelopment, Lewisham - Issue Report

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor.

The meeting ended at 2.15 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: blair.stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS – COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CCS) – SEPTEMBER 2024 UPDATE

TITLE OF REPORT/SUBJECT	Date Added	Initial request and pending Actions	Action Owner	Due Date	LATEST POSITION
Window Replacement	27/07/2023	Report requested on HRA implications on window replacements.	AD Housing	Ongoing	A briefing on the progress to date on the asset management strategy is due to take place 17 September 2024.
City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) Annual report	25/01/2024	The legislative change would be presented to members for decision. The chair requested a member briefing ahead of the committee meeting which takes decision in this matter.	AD People	Winter 2024	Following a change in Government, discussions are underway between Children’s Sector Leadership and DfE regarding potential changes to previous CHSCP governance proposals. Local arrangements will be presented to Members when confirmed- Likely to be end of calendar year.
Asset Management Strategy	11/03/2024	The chair requested an update on the strategy in the next few days as members were concerned regarding the delays,	AD Housing	October 2024	An update was provided at the HMASC meeting. The first draft is due at the end of June. Workshops have been planned in early July with key staff to test the findings. A full update will be presented at the next meeting taking place in October.
Golden Lane Leisure Centre	11/03/2024	The chair had requested that an early draft of the options appraisal in respect to the sports strategy be shared with CCS committee at the earliest opportunity.(this report is due at RASC Committee July 2024). An update was also requested regarding the podium works.	AD Commissioning and Partnerships	Ongoing	A further verbal update will be provided at the September C&CS committee.
Financial Support with Major Works (Long Leaseholders)	11/03/2024	Queries and concerns would be answered by officers and shared with committee.	AD Housing	July	A leaseholder finance paper will be presented to CCS Committee in the Autumn.

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Agenda Item 4

PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS – COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES COMMITTEE (CCS) – SEPTEMBER 2024 UPDATE

		<p>Officers would look at the 25 year terms on loans and how it would impact the HRA. Officers would also look at the cap and discretionary schemes.</p> <p>The chair requested if a charge could be placed on properties, if a resident is deceased and if this could be explored further.</p>			
<p>Stronger Communities Annual Report</p> <p>Page 18</p>	01/05/2024	<p>The next report would provide more information in terms and conditions of grant approvals. The Resource Allocation Sub Committee (RASC) received a report on CIL funding in other boroughs some years ago and the officer agreed that this work could be refreshed.</p>	<p>Head of Central Funding and Charity Management</p>		<p>The next Annual Report will provide some more detail about the programme, how it is run and how grants are managed. This has been logged and will be incorporated into next years’ reporting. With regards to the next Neighbourhood Fund and how it operates in other boroughs, this research is underway, and findings will be provided to estate managers once collected.</p>
<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Self-Evaluation Framework (SEND SEF)</p>	01/05/2024	<p>A new report will be circulated to members of the committee</p>	<p>Strategic Education and Skills Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>An updated version of the SEND SEF would come back to committee at a later date following the peer review.</p>
<p>Member Engagement - Housing Estates</p>	01/05/2024	<p>This report would be taken to HMASc for a more detailed discussion stressing the importance of good governance in respect of major developments, to enable allocated members to be aware of issues at an earlier stage.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Management</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Allocated Member Guidance Notes are being updated following suggestions from Members and will be circulated for comment.</p>

Committee(s): Community and Children’s Services Committee– For Decision	Dated: 20 September 2024
Subject: Non-Voting External Representative Appointment(s) to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Blair Stringman, Town Clerk’s Department	

Summary

The Terms of Reference for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee was agreed by the Community and Children’s Services Committee in March 2024 to allow the appointment of three non-voting external Members to bolster its Membership.

Following changes to the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee in March 2024, external representative vacancies were advertised with seven candidates shortlisted for interview. The recruitment panel interviewed candidates and further shortlisted their preferred candidates for onward recommendation and approval of the grand committee, the Community and Children’s Services Committee, for terms as detailed in the recommendation(s). This report seeks approval for the shortlisted candidates for terms listed in the recommendation(s).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for the following terms:

- a) For a term of two years, James Breed
- b) For a term of two years, Patrick Fowler
- c) For a term of three years, Irmani Smallwood

Main Report

Background

1. To ensure the Sub-Committee has access to necessary expertise to promote its success, it was recommended that the composition be revised to include up to three external representatives.
2. Following changes to the Terms of Reference to enable appointments of three non-voting representatives, an open and transparent approach to the recruitment of external representatives, which followed a similar approach to the recruitment of external representatives on other City of London Committees, including advertising on the Corporation website and use of LinkedIn and other mechanisms to generate interest took place.
3. After closing of the advert, interviews took place with a panel. The panel consisted of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Homelessness & Rough Sleepers Service Manager. Seven candidates were shortlisted with three candidates emerging for approval.
4. All CVs are available to Members on request to the Town Clerk.

Current Position

5. The need for the best possible expertise at the Sub-Committee is vitally important. Accordingly, it is proposed that the three external representatives who, in addition to the expertise of Members, bring specific areas of expertise to the Sub-Committee be approved as Members of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.
6. The Community and Children's Services Committee were consulted on the shortlisted candidates and were provided with their CV's. There was no feedback from Members following consultation.
7. It should be noted that one of the three external candidates who originally had accepted the position has now withdrawn their acceptance from the Sub-Committee and following consultation, the original panel Members have put forward a candidate who has accepted from the existing shortlist.

Options

8. Option 1 (This option is recommended)

To approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for terms specified in the recommendation(s) of this report.

9. Option 2 (This option is not recommended)

To not a approve the appointment of the candidate(s) shortlisted for the terms specified in the recommendation(s) of this report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – none.

Financial implications - See Resource Implications.

Resource implications - Whilst these three appointments will not, in and of themselves, demonstrate a considerable resource demand – the City Corporation is now responsible for over 180 External Members in addition to its 125 elected Councillors. There is a considerable resource implication of this decision in the aggregate. Notable implications being: demand on the Governance and Member Services Team who are currently responsible for supporting the recruitment of and then the induction of the individuals (who may have limited to know prior knowledge of the organisation or how its decision-making processes work); demand on IT Support services, who will be expected to ensure the new External Members have access to their dedicated COLC accounts (in line with the Data Protection Policy). There may be additional costs to sub-committee catering (e.g. committee lunches); and possible printing costs, just to capture some of the wider context of membership demands. Due to concerns over the pressure on existing resource to properly support all our Members, a further report is being produced for consideration by Policy & Resources. Despite this, as no policy decision has been taken at this time in relation to external Member recruitment, and the interviews have already been conducted, it is not considered necessary nor productive to cease this particular appointment campaign.

Legal implications – External appointments shall have no voting rights.

Risk implications – none.

Equalities implications – none.

Climate implications – none.

Security implications - External representatives are required to sign up to the Corporation's Code of Conduct.

Conclusion

10. This report recommends the appointment of the shortlisted candidates to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee as non-voting external representatives for the specified terms.

Blair Stringman

Governance Officer, Town Clerk's Department.

E: Blair.Stringman@CityofLondon.gov.uk

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Community and Children’s Services Committee Finance Committee Policy and Resources Committee	20 September 2024 24 September 2024 26 September 2024
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	n/a
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	n/a
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Blair Stringman, Governance Officer	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk outside of the Committee’s meeting schedule, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and (b).

Recommendation(s)

That Members note the report.

Main Report

Decision Under Standing Order 41(A) – Supporting Inter-Local Authority Initiative “Securing the Future of Council Housing”

The report, led by Southwark Council and supported by several other local authorities, advocates for council housing as a solution to the housing challenges in England. It calls for reforms to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and other programmes, highlighting that council landlords face deficits of over £3 billion on their HRAs over the next ten years. The current framework is becoming unworkable for the provision of social housing, and the City Corporation has experienced pressures on its HRA, resulting in rent increases for social tenants and a precarious revenue funding position.

In July 2024, the City Corporation was approached by Southwark Council with a preliminary version of their report titled "Securing the Future of Council Housing." This report presents council housing as a crucial solution to the various challenges confronting residents and the nation at large. It outlines a comprehensive strategy aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of council homes throughout England.

The report recommends that the City Corporation endorses the principles outlined in the report and approves its submission to the Government by the deadline of 14 August 2024. The proposal, reviewed by the Chamberlain and Executive Director of Community and Children's Services, notes that supporting the report would benefit the City Corporation by easing its HRA pressures, improving its delivery of housing services, and demonstrating its willingness to work with other local authorities.

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair(s) and Deputy Chair(s) of the Policy & Resources Committee, Finance Committee and Community and Children's Service Committee, approved on 13 August 2024 the following:

- a) To endorse the principles outlined in the *Securing the Future of Council Housing Report* (Appendix 1) and approve on behalf of the City of London Corporation, its submission to Government by the deadline of 14 August 2024.

Conclusion

Background papers for Members are available from Blair Stringman on the email address provided below.

Blair Stringman

Governance Officer, Town Clerk's Department

Email: Blair.Stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee: Community and Children's Services	Dated: 20/09/2024
Subject: Tackling the negative impacts of rough sleeping	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Simon Cribbens, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report informs Members of work to develop a policy position and operational protocol in relation to rough sleeping in concentrations of tents which have associated anti-social behaviour or detrimental impact on the community. The policy will be subject to Member approval.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation is committed to supporting those who sleep rough on the Square Mile have a route off the streets tailored to their needs and circumstances. The Corporation invests in specialist outreach services, hostel accommodation (including provision for those with complex needs), a dedicated social worker, health and substance misuse services and a recently opened assessment centre providing emergency beds and a place of safe assessment away from the streets.
2. Services are delivered in the context of increased pressures - with the level of rough sleeping increasing across the capital. Many of those who sleep rough in the City are entrenched and have complex needs. Such individuals often refuse offers of support, accommodation and other welfare intervention.

3. Rough sleeping can be associated with activities like begging, street drinking, substance misuse and other antisocial behaviour. For those who live, work or learn in the City, these behaviours can be intimidating or have detrimental impact, and where they persist they may undermine confidence in the Corporation's support services and the City Police. Those who sleep rough are also disproportionately likely to be the victims of crime and exploitation.
4. Not all those who sleep rough engage in begging, anti-social or criminal activities. However, anti-social behaviour has been associated with the presence of tent encampments in the City. This has included defecation and urination in public spaces, substance misuse and verbal abuse of Corporation officers and contractors. Such encampments can also have wider detrimental impacts on the community, including deterring use of or blocking access to the highway or other public and privately owned spaces.
5. Two such encampments are present in the Square Mile – one at Peninsular House close to the Monument, the other at Baynard House. Both have elicited concerns from Members, City businesses and Corporation Officers, and requests for action to be taken.

Current Position

6. The City Corporation has co-ordinated action to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour associated with the encampment at Peninsular House. While this has had a positive impact (including resulting in the take up of accommodation offers previously refused) a number of tents remain, and three individuals continue to sleep rough.
7. The presence of tents and rough sleeping at Peninsular House has persisted for six years. During that period the number of people sleeping rough fluctuates – reaching 12-15 people at times. In April 2024 16 tents were present. Where numbers of tents or individuals sleeping rough have reduced, it is common for people to return, or for those new to rough sleeping in the City to occupy tents that remain.
8. A further encampment of tents used for rough sleeping has established at Baynard House in the west of the Square Mile. Twenty tents have been reported in this location.
9. A range of powers exist that can be used to intervene with and tackle anti-social behaviour – including that associated with the behaviour of some who sleep rough. It should be noted that enforcement powers are not used solely because someone is sleeping rough or homeless. Powers also enable the removal of tents where such action complies with the legal framework set out.
10. Interventions to respond to encampments in the City have been reactive in relation to escalating issues. It is notable that some other authorities – where there is much greater issue and incidence - have developed and resourced clear and agreed approaches in the form of policy, protocols or guidance. These

ensure clarity and transparency about the approach to interventions, and a clear authorisation process which drives consistency with that approach. They can ensure issues of welfare support, risk and proportionality have been fully considered and evidenced.

11. The use of legal powers is rightly challenging, and open to legal challenge. It is imperative that such powers are used carefully and proportionately and are underpinned by robust evidence of both support to an individual, and the impact of behaviours. Their use must align with all with the legal obligations of specific powers and be underpinned by assessments of Equalities Impact and (for some powers) a Human Rights Act assessment.
12. Operationally, interventions are complex and require a range of activity by many services and partners in advance and at the time. Consideration must be given to many humanitarian and practical issues.
13. Officers are currently engaging with partner local authorities to learn from approaches developed by them. They are also working closely with internal partners, the Corporation's commissioned rough sleeping services and the City of London Police. This work will inform the development of a policy position to clearly set out the Corporation's aim and approach – and the limitations or conditions of that. It will be underpinned by a clear protocol or guidance setting out the requirements and process for authorising any planned enforcement activity.
14. This policy will be subject to the approval of relevant Members to ensure it aligns with the values and commitments of the City Corporation. It will be developed in the coming weeks with the intention to bring it to a committee cycle before the end of the year.
15. The development of this work will also consider the resource implications to ensure the process that underpins the policy is rigorously co-ordinated and delivered.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

16. The policy will be developed in line with the commitments and values of the City Corporation's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Financial implications

17. None

Resource implications

18. None

Legal implications

19. Noted within the report.

Risk implications

20. None

Equalities implications

21. The development of the is policy will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

Climate implications

22. None

Security implications

23. None

Conclusion

24. The development of a clear policy and operational framework in relation to addressing encampments will provide confidence and clarity about the use of interventions.

Appendices

- None

Simon Cribbens

Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships

E: simon.cribbens@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Item 8

Committee(s): Community and Children's Committee	Dated: 20/09/2024
Subject: Education Strategy Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diverse Engaged Communities• Providing Excellent Services• Leading Sustainable Environment
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Dr Deborah Bell, Strategic Director of Education and Skills deborah.bell@cityoflondon.gov.uk	

Summary

This report updates Members on the proposed 2024-29 Education Strategy. The report:

- Advises Members that Education Board approved the Education Strategy 2024-29 on 18th June 2024.
- Requests that Members note content (not it's design).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the Education Strategy 2024-29.

Main Report

Background

1. As noted in the February 2023 meeting of the Education Board, the Education, Cultural & Creative Learning and Skills Strategies 2019-23 expired at the end of the 2023 calendar year. As this fell in the middle of an academic year, to minimise disruption to ongoing activity, the Education Strategy Unit (ESU), with the approval of Education Board Members, continued to deliver against these strategies until the end of the 2023/24 academic year.

2. Development of the new strategic framework has been delivered through multiple workstreams. The ESU conducted desk research which looked at three areas: (1) An analysis of the previous strategies; (2) A review of the current and near-future education landscape; (3) Identifying opportunities within the Corporation.
3. In parallel to this, extensive stakeholder engagement took place. In all, 121 people were engaged from groups including: teachers, headteachers, multi-academy trust CEOs, governors, education charities, education researchers, employers, arts & culture professionals, skills development specialists, the City of London Family of Schools (FoS), local authority officers, Members of the Education Board and Livery Companies & Guild Members.
4. Additionally, over 350 pupils across the Family of Schools were engaged via a pupil survey, and a small group of parents from the Family of Schools were engaged through a bespoke research project developed in collaboration with Brunel University.
5. After distilling the combined findings of the landscape research and stakeholder engagement, seven areas emerged as options for the priorities which could be central to the new Education Strategy. These were, 'Educational Excellence'; 'Health, Safety & Wellbeing'; 'Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)'; 'Personal Development'; 'Employability'; 'Culture, Sport, Creativity & The Arts'; 'Technology'.
6. At the February 2024 meeting of the Education Board, Members decided that the new strategy should be structured around five explicit priority areas, these being:

Educational Excellence
Health, Safety & Wellbeing
Personal Development
Employability
Culture, Sport, Creativity & The Arts

Alongside this, Education Board Members decided that Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Environmental and Outdoor Learning, Special Educational Needs and Technology should exist as overarching themes that run through all activity in all areas.

7. At the April 2024 meeting of the Education Board, Members reviewed and approved the proposed lists of actions and outcomes associated with each priority area. Members were also updated on elements of preparatory work being developed to support delivery against the new priorities.

Current Position

8. The start of the document now features a foreword from the Chair of the Education Board and the 'Introduction' section has been updated to better illustrate 'golden threads' to the Corporate Plan 2024-2029. Particular attention has been paid to both the Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, and Environmental & Outdoor Learning sections which have been further expanded. The 'Context' section has also been updated to reference Technology and Special Educational Needs more explicitly.
9. To illustrate the fact that the City Corporation is already delivering work that aligns with the new priority areas, examples of existing activity have been included in each priority section's introduction. Additionally, the actions and outcomes listed in each priority section have been adjusted in line with input from the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Education Board.
10. Finally, over-arching measures have now been included in each priority section. These measures have been developed in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Education Board, the Strategic Director of Education and Skills, and the Corporate Strategy & Performance Team.
11. The Senior Leadership Team has inputted to the development of the Education Strategy 2024-29.

Options

12. To note the contents of the Education Strategy 2024-29.

Proposals

13. With the development process for this piece of work now complete and approved by the Education Board, the Education Strategy Unit invites the Community and Children's Services Committee to note the contents.

Conclusion

14. This report has highlighted the work which has taken place to develop the 2024-29 Education Strategy and asks Members to note the draft so that the work can progress to the next phase.

Strategic Implications

15. Strategic Implications - This work is aligned with and will contribute to the outcomes of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024-29, specifically 'Providing Excellent Services', 'Diverse Engaged Communities' and 'Leading Sustainable Environment'.

Financial Implications

16. None

Resource Implications

17. None, existing approved resources will continue to be deployed.

Legal Implications

18. None

Risk Implications

19. None

Equalities Implications

20. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

Climate Implications

21. None

Security Implications

22. None

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Education Strategy 2024-29 Full Draft - August 2024

CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION
EDUCATION STRATEGY 2024-29

(Draft 4 v9 - August 2024)

FOREWORD

Education is often seen as the cornerstone of a thriving society. It cultivates the next generation of innovators, shapes our cultural identity, and fuels economic prosperity. Within this national framework, London emerges as one of many vibrant educational hubs. Home to a diverse mix of schools, world-renowned universities, and an incredibly diverse student body, London is excellently positioned to help champion the future of education.

Much has already been said about the City of London being unique in terms of us acknowledging our historic roots whilst driving towards the future. Nowhere is this truer than in the education realm. We are immensely proud of all learners within the City of London Corporation 'Family of Schools', whether enrolled at our maintained school, one of the City of London Academy Trust schools, or one of our independent schools. Our admiration and support of these fine young people and their dedicated teachers is assured.

Apprenticeships were created in the medieval City to ensure that the wealth generating professions and trades maintained their standards and sustainability. In the 21st century City we are growing our breadth of top-class apprenticeships, particularly targeted at young people and adults who may have experienced some form of disadvantage.

As an educator myself, I commend this strategy. Its vision, ambition and inclusive priority will ensure that world class education grows through the City's influence, locally, nationally and beyond for learners and their educators. This strategy complements the City of London Corporation's Corporate Strategy 2024-2029, honouring our fine educational tradition and positioning our learners with every advantage that we can influence for successful, content and productive futures.

Naresh Sonpar – Chair of the Education Board

INTRODUCTION

The City of London Corporation looks after the City of London ('the City' or 'Square Mile') on behalf of all who live, study, work, and visit, providing modern, efficient, and high-quality local services and policing for all. We have a long history, a unique constitution, our own Lord Mayor, and a dedicated police service keeping the City safe. Our independent and non-partisan political voice and convening power, enables us to promote the interests of people and organisations across London and the UK and play a valued role on the world-stage.

Today the Square Mile is the proud home to 8,600 residents, 614,500 workers, 24,000 businesses and over 100 livery companies and guilds. Additionally, a number of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) institutions (including City, University of London, Gresham College and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama) operate within the Square Mile, as well as numerous training providers, and a number of world-renowned creative and cultural institutions (such as the Museum of London and the Barbican). We support this rich landscape through our dedication to '*a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK*'.

At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to help increase social mobility – this being the extent to which people have the same chances to do well in life, regardless of their background. A key outcome of our Corporate Plan 2024-29 is the provision of excellent services that '*help people*

live healthy, independent lives, and achieve their ambitions'. A vital component of this is our commitment to supporting schools, outstanding education, and lifelong learning.

Another outcome within our Corporate Plan is our desire to *'help build diverse, engaged communities*'. To align with this, as well as our Equality Objectives 2024-29, a drive to continuously improve Equity, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EEDI) in learning settings will be the foundation for all activity borne of this strategy. EEDI efforts in education settings focus on the fundamental right of all learners to access equitable educational experiences. This involves creating environments free from all forms of discrimination where every learner, regardless of their socio-economic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, race, disability, ethnicity, birthplace, or other circumstance beyond their control, feels acknowledged, safe and supported to thrive and reach their full potential.

We believe that our commitment to improving educational EEDI can play a pivotal role in creating positive life outcomes for more learners – especially those facing the most challenge. This will ultimately contribute to a fairer, more prosperous society that benefits from richer diversity of thought. It is our ambition that at all times, *all* learners are acknowledged and supported, to give them the best chance to flourish.

Our Corporate Plan also illustrates our commitment to *'act as a leader on environmental sustainability*'. To reflect this in our education efforts, Environmental & Outdoor Learning (EOL) will be a priority area, especially with regard to topics such as climate action, sustainability, and green skills. To do this we will support initiatives such as nature immersion experiences, sustainability awareness programmes and green careers development opportunities which will encourage green leadership and environmental stewardship in learners.

With all of these outcomes acting as a bedrock, this strategy illustrates how we will extend and enrich education experiences by creatively leveraging our unique combination of assets and resources. We will utilise the funding, networks, knowledge, influence, expertise, and experience available to us to help more learners realise their full potential – regardless of their background, identity, or ability.

CONTEXT

In England today, learners and education organisations continue to face many challenges. Long-term problems including funding constraints, growing socio-economic disparities and the widening attainment gap have been amplified by events such as the COVID 19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. All of this is reflected in and around London with learning organisations trying to navigate a complex mix of interconnected problems such as poor mental health in learners, low attendance and a growing skills gap. These challenges affect many of the education organisations and learners we are connected to.

The City Corporation is a major provider and funder of education. We have Local Authority education duties in the Square Mile, maintain one primary school, support ten Early Years settings, are a proprietor of four independent schools, and act as the sole sponsor of academies managed by the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT). In its entirety, this group of schools is called the **'Family of Schools'**.

Beyond school-age education, the Adult Skills and Education Service (ASES) delivers the City Corporation's statutory Adult Community Learning (ACL) services. ASES is also integral to our Apprentice Programme, recruiting apprentices at the City Corporation and brokering and delivering apprenticeships for local businesses and residents in the Square Mile and beyond.

Alongside this, the Skills and Workforce Policy team in the Department for Innovation and Growth ensures London and the UK develop a strong skills and talent pipeline for financial and professional services. The team works to foster a lifelong learning culture that supports the creation of a domestic talent pool, attracts top global talent and helps employees to stay in work and reach their full potential.

This strategy will leverage our links to the Square Mile's world-class business community, learning and cultural institutions, and environmental assets. Our ambition is that this, along with our philanthropic commitments, will offer learners unique educational enrichment that expands their opportunities to progress, and inspires an appetite for excellence, creativity, and innovation.

For this strategy to deliver meaningful impact, it must look beyond today's educational landscape and account for the critical factors of the near future. Perhaps the most significant topic in this regard is the transformative impact emerging technologies will have on education. For example, sophisticated tools that use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyse student performance and then recommend tailored content and targeted interventions are emerging to help both educators and learners. When effectively utilised, such technologies can enhance learning outcomes by improving operational efficiency, and enabling personalised, adaptive, and inclusive educational experiences.

Alongside technology, other factors such as the development of future-proof personal skills, our responses to local and global environmental issues, and the universal benefits of EEDI are just a few examples of other topics that will grow in significance in the near future. This strategy will therefore continue to acknowledge the landscape of tomorrow to help learners prepare for it today.

Delivery of this strategy is a cross-Corporation endeavour. Strategic oversight, including monitoring and evaluation of the strategy will be conducted by the City of London Corporation's Education Board, with day to-day operational oversight delivered by the Education Strategy Unit (ESU). The ESU sits within the City Corporation's Department of Community & Children's Services and supports its aim to ensure *'people of all ages and backgrounds are prepared to flourish in a rapidly changing world'*. City Corporation departments that will be key in delivery of this strategy are:

- Town Clerk & Chief Executive
- Department of Community & Children's Services
- Environment Department
- Innovation & Growth

OUR VISION

We believe all learners – especially those facing the most challenge - are entitled to an education which helps them to achieve their best academically and helps them develop and flourish as people. We define this as the development of academic excellence, cultural knowledge, work-readiness, and a lifelong love of learning.

To deliver against this belief, we extend and enrich education for 'City-linked' learners to offer them world-class education experiences and help them secure better life outcomes. This work is driven by our vision for education:

‘Helping learners to flourish in a rapidly changing world by championing outstanding education, encouraging lifelong learning and driving increased social mobility’.

OUR STRATEGY

Fundamentally, education at all stages and all levels should support learners in developing skills and knowledge that will help them access new opportunities and move forward in life. However, today’s education landscape is incredibly complex, with a wide range of inter-connected factors influencing education outcomes. The City Corporation is uniquely positioned to help educators navigate this complexity through our ability to fund, influence and facilitate unique educational initiatives across this range of factors. These initiatives, driven by research and innovation, will help educators enrich what they are doing right now, and anticipate what will be of value in the future. So, to summarise our strategy...

‘We will create exceptional education experiences for City-linked learners by creatively leveraging our unique array of assets and resources’.

To create a framework for this intention, we have processed the data, knowledge, insights and concerns collected through extensive stakeholder engagement and sector research. Using these learnings as a foundation, we will support our pledges to champion outstanding education, encourage lifelong learning and drive increased social mobility by focusing on the following priorities:



● 'SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE'

Context:

The City of London Corporation defines educational excellence as a combination of academic attainment, achievement, and personal growth - a foundation for holistic development. High attainment remains a crucial component for success in many spheres and the City Corporation remains passionate in its commitment to support academic excellence in City-linked learning settings. Alongside attainment we will continue to promote the importance of achievement as a valuable way to track progress and motivate pupils who are less academically inclined.

Research increasingly tells us however, that focusing on academic attainment and achievement alone will not meaningfully prepare learners to be work-ready *and* world-ready. The identification and development of personal skills and competencies is now a critical factor in improving career opportunities, and equipping learners to navigate life in a constantly changing world. For this reason, the City Corporation will increase its drive to support the integration of skills and personal development in all learning experiences.

Importantly, educational excellence is dependent on teaching excellence. Outstanding teaching and learning can cater for a more diverse mix of learners, foster engagement and improve comprehension, helping to build knowledge and skills, whilst also inspiring curiosity, creativity and a broader love of learning.

Supporting the development of education, educators and learning experiences, especially where it involves innovation, creativity and strengthened EEDI practise, will be central in our drive for educational excellence. We will continue to build on current activity - which includes funding to broaden teacher CPD opportunities, widen access to higher education, and provide bespoke pastoral support for learners facing significant challenge - through our unique City Premium Grant programme.

Actions (What we will do):

- Strengthen existing synergies and collaboration by revitalising the concept of the City Family of Schools, reviving the sense of benefit for member schools, reintroducing a shared ethos, and encouraging more sharing of skills, knowledge, and resources.
- Help support innovative practice and EdTech adoption across City-linked learning environments by working with educators to identify and introduce digital tools, skills, resources, and approaches that they believe will add value.
- Continue to improve education experiences, learning outcomes and future pathways for learners across the Family of Schools – especially those who do not have equal access and those with SEND - by improving how effectively the City Premium Grant is deployed, and ensuring schools align funded activity with our strategic priorities.
- Offer learners unique, enriching off-site experiences by leveraging our access to the City Corporation's physical assets and venues, such as the Guildhall, our open spaces, our markets, and cultural institutions.

- Through research and collaboration we will connect City-linked educators with leading-edge thinking, practices and opportunities that support innovation in education – with a particular focus on supporting learners who do not have equal access and those with SEND.

Key Outcomes (What we will achieve):

- Collaborative work across the Family of Schools is boosted, with multiple lines of dialogue between the schools as well as the City Corporation, to maximise the sharing of skills, knowledge, and resources.
- City-linked learning settings keep pace with technology, resulting in improved efficiency, effectiveness, and learner engagement
- Learners across the Family of Schools - especially those in need of extra support – see the benefit of the City Corporation’s financial support, and experience an education that is enriched and extended by our innovative funding
- More learners engage with the City Corporation's places and spaces through unique enrichment opportunities which offer the chance to build their skills and knowledge, as well as their social and cultural capital.
- City-linked educators are aware of, have access to, and regularly consider how they might engage with opportunities, tools and practices that will make their learning experiences leading-edge.

Key Measures:

Educators tell us that education experiences for their learners – especially those in need of extra support - are being enhanced by the additional opportunities and initiatives being provided by the City of London Corporation.

Number of improvement-focused tools or initiatives facilitated or funded by the City of London Corporation annually.

● 'PROMOTING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT'

Context:

The pairing of academic education with personal development is crucial for the overall growth of individuals both personally and professionally. Personal development involves the building of principles and values such as respect, responsibility, and citizenship, as well as the development of skills and competencies like financial literacy and autonomy. Central to this are Fusion Skills (commonly known as Key Skills, Core Skills, or Transferable Skills) - a mix of creative, social, and interpersonal competencies as well as cognitive skills such as decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving. Fusion Skills have been identified as a set of skills that are highly likely to support success in tomorrow's world, especially with respect to the workplace.

Research tells us that access to personal development opportunities varies substantially - particularly among underrepresented groups. The City Corporation believes that personal development is an essential component of a holistic education and should be available to all learners – especially those challenged by disadvantage. We can and will play an important role in making this a reality for more learners. Our current work with Bloomberg, which supports the development of fundamental financial skills is just one example of how we are already responding to this challenge. We will continue to support a number of key initiatives designed to help learners focus on their personal development and increase our drive to see this acknowledged in all City-linked learning settings.

Actions (What we will do):

- Via partners, service providers and specialist platforms, offer City-linked educators curriculum-linked opportunities and tools which will accelerate the development of life skills and competencies in their learners, giving them a valuable edge.
- Create a new event/s designed to promote the development of interpersonal skills and social capital for secondary-age learners - including those who do not have equal access and those with SEND.
- Establish a dialogue between the City Corporation and learners across the Family of Schools by hosting input sessions that give learners the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions on activity the ESU is planning.
- Work with outdoor learning and cultural partners to pilot or expand programmes and experiences for learners and educators that use creativity, culture, and natural environments as vehicles for the development of personal skills and competencies.

Key Outcomes (What we will achieve):

- City-linked educators have more structured ways to help learners develop their personal skills and competencies, build their self-confidence, and feel world-ready.

- Learners see first-hand the value of building their personal skills from an early age, are motivated to think critically and explicitly about their own skills and competencies, and get the opportunity to build richer peer networks.
- Participants have the opportunity to interact with a professional organisation and feed their thoughts into planned activities and develop key skills (e.g. communication and critical thinking) through their interactions with us and each other.
- Culture, creativity, sports, and the natural environment are used as vehicles to improve the personal skills and competencies of learners.

Key Measures:

Learners tell us engaging with our tools or initiatives has further motivated them to invest in their personal development.

Number of personal development initiatives facilitated or funded by the City of London Corporation annually, in receipt of positive participant evaluation increases annually.

● 'REINFORCING SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLBEING'

Context:

Good physical and mental health, combined with positive learning environments and effective safeguarding provide the foundation for learners to thrive and develop. These responsibilities are critical aspects of a duty of care for learners and form the basis of our focus on Safety, Health, and Wellbeing. Learners continue to face challenges in these areas, especially with regard to their mental health, and this can affect their education in many ways. Studies by Public Health England and the Education Policy Institute emphasise the link between health, wellbeing, and educational outcomes. Their findings highlight the fact that learners' physical and mental health significantly influences their academic achievement. Improved health and wellbeing positively impact attendance rates, concentration levels, cognitive abilities, and social-emotional development, thereby enhancing learning outcomes.

Schools play a crucial role in supporting the health and wellbeing of pupils, and those that promote learner wellbeing through work such as mental health support, sporting activity, and healthy eating interventions observe improved educational attainment among their learners. Evidence also suggests that exposure to natural environments can benefit the mental health and wellbeing of learners. For this reason, we believe that Environmental and Outdoor Learning can play an important role in this area.

From our current commitment to fund bespoke mental health support and counselling for learners, to a focus on broader research and development, the City Corporation will continue to acknowledge safety, health, and wellbeing as critical aspects of effective education. We will maintain our commitment to promoting and facilitating exemplary safeguarding practise throughout all City-linked learning settings and continue to support efforts that will improve mental and physical health. This will be achieved through specialist programmes, creative initiatives, innovative interventions, and alignment with broader City Corporation efforts focused on sports and leisure engagement and Environmental and Outdoor Learning.

Actions (What we will do):

- In consultation with Heads of Sport across the Family of Schools, establish a 'City Schools Sports Tournament', launched by a high-profile sports influencer, which brings the Family of Schools together around a series of sporting competitions designed to celebrate the value of physical activity and healthy living.
- Deliver a suite of online sessions that offer extra guidance to parents and carers, helping them better support pupils/their children across a range of areas, including exam preparation, risky behaviours, and support with SEND.
- Expand our commitment to exceptional safeguarding by extending our safeguarding training offer to Members and external partners.
- Identify and curate EOL specialists to help City-linked educators deliver more curriculum-linked learning in natural environments to benefit the health and wellbeing of learners -

especially those with SEND and those who do not have equal access.

Key Outcomes (What we will achieve):

- A large number of pupils across the Family of Schools convene around sporting activity, celebrating healthy lifestyles and building their peer networks and social capital in the process.
- Parents and carers feel better informed and equipped to navigate the different aspects of their child's education journey.
- All City-linked learning settings are offered extra support to uphold excellent safeguarding practise.
- Teachers are better equipped to create opportunities where the health and wellbeing of learners can be positively impacted by natural environments.

Key Measures:

Educators tell us that they feel the safety, health and wellbeing of their learners is benefitting from the additional support being provided by the City of London corporation.

The number of health, safety and wellbeing activities and initiatives facilitated or funded by the City of London Corporation, with positive participant evaluation, increases year-on-year.

● 'IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY'

Context:

Education already plays a key role in preparing individuals for the workforce, but *maximising* the connection between education and employability is often a challenge for educators as it requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond standard classroom practice.

It must also encompass the development of Fusion Skills such as problem-solving, communication, resilience, and adaptability—essential qualities sought by employers. Alongside this, education experiences should build an appetite for lifelong learning and ongoing development—essential components to succeed in the constantly changing workplace of the future. Finally, education should play a central role in exposing learners to the world of work, and where possible, connecting them with employers. This better equips learners to navigate the complexities of the workplace, enhancing their prospects for meaningful employment and future career progression.

The City Corporation is uniquely positioned to provide learners with a world-leading offer in this respect. Along with an increase in our drive to see skills development acknowledged in more learning environments, we will utilise our long-standing networks with employers in the Square Mile and beyond to connect learners with a wide range of workplace opportunities. These will include apprenticeships, work experience, volunteering, continued professional development, informal learning, traineeships, internships, supported internships, work placements, 'direct to employment' programmes, mentoring and university pathways. Whilst we already connect thousands of learners with opportunities and employers in the Square Mile each year by organising the London Careers Festival, we will build on this success with new, adjacent initiatives.

Actions (What we will do):

- Better leverage the City Corporation's links with employers to contribute to the 'London Bridge the Gap' initiative currently being driven by the City of London Academies Trust, to help all learners – including those with SEND, and especially those without equal access – understand the landscape of careers and development opportunities in the Square Mile, access world-class careers pathways ranging from work experience to supported internships, and gain professional connections.
- Work collaboratively with ASES and our central apprenticeships team to help students leaving the Family of Schools better understand apprenticeships and access high quality City-based opportunities.
- Better support learners leaving the Family of Schools, especially those in need of extra support, who are interested in entrepreneurship and innovation by working collaboratively with our Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre.
- Map the landscape of Green Careers to offer learners a comprehensive overview and signpost them to careers pathways and green career development opportunities.

- Refresh and relaunch FindFusion, positioning the platform as a knowledge hub that helps educators understand what Fusion Skills are, why they are so important to employers, and how they can help their learners to develop them.

Key Outcomes (What we will achieve):

- Learners facing the most challenge have a strong grasp of careers options, are aware of high-quality City-based development opportunities including mentoring, supported internships and apprenticeships, and build connections with professionals and practitioners.
- Learners leaving the Family of Schools who are particularly interested in apprenticeships are aware of, and have enhanced access to apprenticeship opportunities in the City.
- Learners leaving the Family of Schools who are aspiring entrepreneurs are aware of and motivated to engage with the business support services available to them via the City Corporation.
- Learners of all ages are more compelled by and inspired to develop green employability skills and are connected with Green Careers pathways.
- Users of FindFusion understand the value of Fusion Skills in the context of employability and have excellent awareness of development opportunities for their learners.

Key Measures:

Learners tell us participation in our initiatives has improved their confidence in engaging with the world of work.

Number of career development opportunities with which we connect learners increases annually.

● 'EMBRACING CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE ARTS'

Context:

Access to cultural and creative learning nurtures imagination and creativity, and significantly contributes to the development of skills, knowledge, and well-being in learners. Moreover, research emphasises the growing importance of creative skills such as problem-solving and innovation in the future workplace. Despite the acknowledged value of arts subjects however, there is a noted lack of recognition for arts education within the congested state education system. Aligning with this issue, it is often the case that learners have limited access to arts and culture.

The City is home to a wide range of high-quality cultural venues and inspiring spaces, within historically and culturally significant geographical areas. This presents a unique educational resource that can enrich the learning of children, young people, and adults.

We will unlock the potential in both of these areas. Although we already fund a wide range of bespoke, creative learning projects in the Square Mile, we will build stronger links with, and provide better access to more cultural venues and creative communities. This will in turn help us support high quality cultural and creative learning experiences both within learning settings, and also within the inspiring cultural and creative communities we are connected to.

Actions (What we will do):

- Engage the City's creative communities and highlight the range of cultural and creative experiences available to City-linked learners, inspiring them to appreciate the arts and culture, explore their creative potential and consider creative careers.
- Strengthen knowledge and skills across our cultural and creative learning partners so they are more confident when working with learners who experience significant barriers to learning such as those with SEND or those without equal access.
- Support creative CPD training that equips non-arts secondary teachers to use creativity to enhance learning across the curriculum.
- Increase the breadth and depth of cultural and creative learning experiences available through our cultural and creative partners by funding unique programmes, encouraging them to work collaboratively, and consistently strengthening the list of partners we work with.

Key outcomes (What we will achieve):

- City-linked learners are familiar with a wide range of creative opportunities and better informed if considering creative careers.
- Learners from all backgrounds feel comfortable and respected when engaging in partner-led cultural and creative learning experiences and are more likely to access the City's

cultural and creative spaces.

- Educator recipients of cultural and creative training create more compelling learning experiences which positively impact learner engagement.
- There is a richer variety of opportunities for learners facing disadvantage to explore their creativity and build their cultural capital.

Key Measures:

Learners tell us participation in our initiatives has enhanced their exposure to the arts and culture.

Learner participant numbers for arts and culture initiatives funded or facilitated by the City of London Corporation increases year-on-year.

DRAFT

IMPLEMENTATION, DELIVERY & MEASUREMENT

This strategy will be implemented each year through the development of an annual delivery plan which will outline the lead actions for that year, along with the associated costs, timings, and impact measures we will put in place.

In addition to the over-arching measures presented earlier in this document, more granular measures will be assigned to the actions outlined in the delivery plan each year. A combination of quantitative and qualitative measures will be used in each case to ensure both quantifiable metrics *and* participant narratives are used to gauge outcomes and impact. A selection of outcomes in this strategy will be used to measure performance against the Corporate Plan 2024-29.

Baseline measures and performance capture processes will be introduced in the first year of the strategy and iterated upon annually to ensure continuous improvement. Reporting against each annual plan will occur regularly, with measurement ongoing and an annual end-of-year review undertaken through the Education Board Committee. Some measurement may need to continue after this strategy has expired in order to report against real-world, longitudinal outcomes.

Actions will be delivered by the ESU, at times in partnership with City Corporation colleagues from other departments and external organisations as necessary. Actions will see a phased delivery through the five-year duration of the strategy to acknowledge the financial and human resources available.

Dialogues with stakeholders will be maintained throughout to ensure there is opportunity for incremental improvement, iteration, and ongoing co-design for relevant initiatives. This will also allow us to confirm the ongoing relevance of outcomes, many of which we expect to maintain their relevance after this strategy expires.

If necessary, this strategy will be adapted to acknowledge any legislative change, national or international priorities that may significantly affect planned activity. This strategy supports the delivery of key outcomes in the City of London Corporation's [Corporate Plan 2024 -29](#), our [Equality Objectives 2024-29](#), and the Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan and Children and Young People's Partnership Plan.

Agenda Item 9

Committee: Community and Children's Services Committee	Dated: 20/09/2024
Subject: The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Peer Review	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Kirstie Hilton, Head of Service – Education and Early Years	

Summary

- A new Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection Framework was published by the Government in November 2022 and has been in operation since January 2023. A recent Area SEND engagement meeting with Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) took place on 9 July 2024.
- The last Area SEND inspection in the City of London (COL) was in March 2018, and the local area could be inspected at any time. In preparation, the COL commissioned a peer review to assess its readiness for the Area SEND inspection.
- This report provides Members with the findings of the peer review, the recommendations, and actions that are being taken to strengthen the local area's work around timely identification, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, ensuring that they are well prepared for adult life, and that they are integral and valued members of the COL community.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The peer review was undertaken by Achieving for Children – The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames in April/May 2024, with a final report dated June 2024. See Appendix 1.
2. The review team included the Executive Director of Children Services, the Director of Education Services, the Associate Director for SEND, the SEND Service Manager, the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND, the Designated Social Care Officer for SEND, and the SEND Projects Officer.
3. The review involved evaluating COL data and documents in relation to SEND, such as the COL's SEND Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF), strategic plans and policies, the Local Offer, the structure of the local area partnership, and information about the services we provide. It also involved sampling a small number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), interviewing partners across education, health and social care, interviewing representatives from the City Parent Carer Forum (CPCF), and meeting with parents and carers.
4. As the focus of the review was on preparing for the Area SEND inspection, the Area SEND Inspection Framework and Handbook (Ofsted and CQC, 2023), was used to structure the peer review activities, main findings and recommendations. See Appendix 2 for a copy of the SEND Inspection Framework.
5. An Area SEND engagement meeting with Ofsted and the CQC took place on 9 July, with senior leaders from the partnership (Education, Health and Social Care) and two parents/carers present. The meeting was very positive and reflected all the excellent work that the partnership does in supporting our children and young people with SEND. A copy of the SEND Engagement Meeting Letter can be found in Appendix 3.

Main Findings

Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support

6. The review found that *professionals know children and young people extremely well and work with them and their families to develop effective plans to secure the provision that they need*, and that they are at the centre of the local area's thinking and actions. Children and young people's voices and views are represented around their individual support needs, their EHCPs reflect their views and aspirations, information is provided in accessible and age-appropriate formats, and there is a trusting relationship between families and services.
7. An identified area for development is around the provision of advocacy services for parents and carers, particularly those whose first language is not

English. We have already strengthened the service level agreement with the Tower Hamlets and COL SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. The agreement now includes the provision of an advocacy service for children and young people aged 16–25 years, which is provided by trained advocates who are themselves young people. Where English is an additional language, volunteers with appropriate language/interpreting skills and a lived experience of SEND will be engaged to support the advocacy/support session with parents and carers.

Children and young people’s needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way

8. The review found that *support for children in the early years is a considerable strength, with a good Local Offer in place for families in the City*. Children’s needs are identified effectively and there is successful signposting to support services and assessment referrals. There is strong multi-agency support for parents and carers; assessments are timely; advice is of a high quality; and good-quality EHCP needs assessments and plans are completed within statutory timescales, through an effective planning and decision-making panel.
9. The SEND Ranges – a framework for staff in educational settings for ages 0–25 years to address the early identification of SEND – was rolled out to settings in the COL in the summer of 2023. The review found this to be an effective framework for staff in educational settings in supporting the early identification of needs, providing advice on adaptations, and guidance on assessment.
10. In terms of health assessment, children and young people do not wait too long for their needs to be assessed in high-demand services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or speech and language therapy. While there are longer waiting times for neurodevelopmental assessments, help such as specific pre-diagnostic support is offered to families waiting for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) assessments.
11. The review also found that operational partnership groups, such as the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDSCO) Network and Vulnerable Children Group, support identification, assessment and planning.
12. No areas for development were identified in this area.

Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time

13. The peer review found that *there is good evidence that EHCPs are effective and making a positive difference to children and young people, and that educational and wider outcomes for children and young people with SEND*

are good. Parents are positive about the quality of the help and support that their children receive.

14. EHCPs are effective in providing the support that children and young people need, and statutory annual reviews of EHCPs are timely and effective. Children and young people with EHCPs attend schools that are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted. The review found that there is a strong multi-agency support offer for children with an EHCP, as well as for those receiving SEND support.
15. In terms of children and young people who are receiving SEND support, the review noted the challenges and the arrangements that are in place for identifying and tracking these pupils. We acknowledge that there is work to be done in this area in terms of how we may be able to monitor the progress and outcomes of these children and young people, and we are considering ways to improve this area.
16. Regarding areas for development, the review noted the challenges in identifying the right health provider for children and young people with specific needs. This is due to the number of different health organisations in different local areas, and different Integrated Care Systems which provide services to COL children and young people and their families. The steps being taken to establish a neighbourhood health model for the City and Shoreditch Park were noted, and the review recommended that it would be beneficial to have a clear statement of intent, plan and timescale for this work.
17. There is work to be done to further develop the Local Offer website to keep the content up to date, and to ensure that families and professionals can easily navigate the content. The Local Offer is always under review, and there are plans to do further work with the CPCF to develop the Local Offer.

Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes

18. The review found that the planning and support around transitions at key stages of education is effective, particularly given that children and young people attend a wide range of educational settings outside of the COL. Children and young people are engaged in planning their next steps, with preparation for adulthood routinely starting at the age of 14 years, with effective multi-professional planning and joint working across education, health and social care.
19. An area for development is around expanding the range of vocational opportunities for young people, strengthening their pathways into employment, including developing supported internship, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities – both within and beyond the COL.

20. The review suggested that the role of the Preparing for Adulthood Partnership Lead, which is led by Hackney, could be strengthened and better embedded in the COL to enable Preparing for Adulthood developments to be taken forward at greater pace.
21. The complexities already identified in relation to health services for families living in the COL are exacerbated during young people's transition to adulthood when further adult health services are introduced. This was particularly noticeable in relation to mental health services and the transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services.

Children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in their communities

22. The review found *good examples of children and young people with SEND being valued and celebrated in their schools and communities*. Children and young people participate in activities in the community. The CPCF have been supported by the COL to develop inclusive sports provision for their children and young people at Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre. They have also worked with planners in the COL Corporation to develop inclusive play facilities as part of the St Paul's development.
23. In terms of areas for development, the review found that *some parents were of the view that the City of London is not inclusive in its mindset, by which they mean that it does not proactively think about inclusion. Here they made a distinction between the directorate responsible for Children's Services, which they reported was very inclusive, and the wider City of London Corporation and its institutions, which they reported were not*. The review suggests that it may be beneficial to produce a statement or charter that sets out the City's ambition for inclusion in relation to children and young people with SEND.
24. Co-production is an area for development. This is a way of working where children and young people, families, and those that provide the services work together to help design and create services that works for them all. The review suggests that COL and partners develop an agreed definition of co-production with parents and carers, and identify a small number of co-production priorities each year. This is a feature of the forthcoming SEND Strategy 2025–2029, which will come to this Committee.

Leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND and have an accurate, shared understanding of their needs

25. The local area partnership is ambitious for COL children and young people with SEND, and we know our families well. This is reflected in the peer review.
26. *There is a clear vision and ambition for children and young people with SEND. The SEND Strategy is currently being refreshed based on a clear multi-agency assessment of local need. There is strong engagement*

from partner organisations in this work, as well as from parents and carers. Leaders respond to changing needs. There are comprehensive strategies, plans and guidance that support the delivery of the main SEND Strategy.

- 27. There is strong engagement from partners in the strategic SEND Programme Board, which is responsible for driving forward the SEND Strategy. The Board has representation from all local area partners as well as from parents and carers. The Board is jointly chaired by senior leaders from education, health and social care, and there is a real sense of shared ownership and accountability for the strategy and the local area plans, as well as strategic teamwork. There is evidence that members use the Board to constructively challenge each other and hold each other to account.*
- 28. The SEND Programme Board has identified clear priorities for joint working. These include supporting inclusion and early intervention, increasing parental engagement in co-production, and reducing waiting times for ASD and ADHD assessments.*
29. The review noted the complexities of the governance arrangements around SEND – which are due to cross-borough arrangements – and commented that it would be helpful to review all the strategic governance arrangements for SEND so that the local area can be assured that any duplication is minimised.

Leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people

30. The review found that the services commissioned for children and young people to help them achieve their aspirations are effective, that leaders are confident in the efficacy of services, and they are clear about outcomes.
31. To address the challenges of securing specialist school provision for children and young people, and in commissioning health services due to the cross-border issues, the review suggests development work and joint commissioning with other local authorities to enhance the Local Offer and expand access to specialist school places while taking a more co-ordinated approach in terms of health provision.
32. Work has started on the COL's approach to alternative provision, and the review recommends that this is completed as a priority.

Leaders evaluate services, make improvements and create an environment for effective practice and multi-agency working to flourish

33. The review found that the Local Area partnership has a clear understanding and commitment to improving access to CAMHS. It is focused on improving practice for individual children and young people, monitoring attendance, educational achievements and EHCP outcomes,

visiting settings, and routinely tracking the impact that each provision has on each child or young person with SEND, and it takes suitable action where necessary to ensure that all children achieve. The review considered that *leaders have effective oversight of services and understand where services need to develop or improve.*

34. There is much to be proud of. The review considers that the local areas' SEND SEF *does not fully capture the effective work and positive outcomes that are being achieved for children and young people with SEND in the City.* The SEF is being amended to better reflect the local areas' strengths.
35. The review noted that quality assurance of services happens within individual service. An area for development is a quality assurance framework for SEND services that can be used by multi-agency partners. Steps are already in place to address this.

Recommendations

36. The review sets out 10 recommendations around:
- I. Accelerating plans for the development of a neighbourhood health model so that children and young people with SEND can access the health services they need in their local area.
 - II. Reviewing the governance arrangements for SEND to minimise duplication, and provide assurance that there is a clear focus on delivering the priorities in the SEND Strategy.
 - III. Developing a clear definition of co-production across the local partnership, and agreeing a small number of priorities for co-production with parents and carers and children and young people.
 - IV. Considering options to develop the cross-border commissioning of services to improve the SEND Local Offer, and particularly to increase the local availability of health services and specialist school places.
 - V. Reviewing the Local Offer website to update its content so that it includes the information that children, young people and families say they need, and to make it more easily navigable and searchable.
 - VI. Finalising the strategy for alternative education provision.
 - VII. Reviewing SENDIASS to ensure that it has the capacity to meet the needs of families in the City and can offer them the information and advice they need in a timely way, with options for the provision of advocacy services for parents.
 - VIII. Considering options to improve the timeliness of direct payments.
 - IX. Developing a multi-agency quality assurance framework for SEND.
 - X. Updating the self-evaluation to fully reflect the strengths of the local partnership and explain how partners are working together to address challenges and areas for development.

Plans to address the recommendations

37. A comprehensive action plan is in place to address the recommendations, and progress is being made on these. See Appendix 4 for the SEND Peer Review Action Plan – July 2024.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

38. **Contributes to the Corporate Plan – Providing Excellent Services.**
Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions is dependent on excellent service. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children's social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing and combatting homelessness.
39. **Strategic implications – Corporate outcome:** Contribute to providing excellent services by ensuring that the local area partnership is working well together and in collaboration with parent carers, children and young people to ensure that children and young people with SEND achieve their full potential and that they live happy, healthy, independent lives.
40. **Resource implications – N/A**
41. **Financial implications – N/A**
42. **Legal implications –** The duties on local areas regarding provision for children and young people with SEND are contained in the Children and Families Act 2014. This legislation sits in the context of the Equality Act 2010. The *Area SEND Inspection: Framework and Handbook*, sets out the legal basis and the principles for the SEND inspection.
43. **Risk implications –** If children's SEND issues are not identified early, assessed and supported, this will impact on their educational attainment, progress and wider lifetime chances.
44. **Equalities implications –** All children and young people, regardless of their special educational needs or disabilities, will be part of a community where they can learn, achieve and participate in activities with other children and young people, and will be prepared to have a fulfilled adult life.
45. **Climate implications – N/A**
46. **Security implications – N/A**

Conclusion

47. The COL is awaiting inspection under the new Area SEND Inspection Framework published by the Government on 30 November 2022. The governance of the SEND Strategy is with the SEND Programme Board. A Peer review took place in April and May 2024 to support the work of the service in inspection readiness, and a recent engagement meeting with

Ofsted and CQC reiterated the positive work that the COL is doing to support children and young people with SEND. Following a report by Achieving for Children, the COL has developed an action plan, listing a number of recommendations and actions. These will be monitored along with the SEND Strategy and SEND SEF through the SEND Programme Board to ensure that the local area is well prepared for the area inspection.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London SEND Peer Review – Report by Achieving for Children (The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames – June 2024)
- Appendix 2 – Area SEND Inspection Framework [Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/area-send-inspection-framework-and-handbook)
- Appendix 3 – SEND Engagement Meeting Letter with Ofsted and CQC, 9 July 2024
- Appendix 4 – SEND Peer Review Action Plan – July 2024

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City of London

SEND PEER REVIEW

June 2024



**achieving
for children**



*LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES*

Executive Summary

The smallness of the City of London Corporation is a real strength in relation to the services it provides for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). There is a strong multi-professional partnership across education, health and social care that works well to achieve the best possible outcomes for them. Professionals know children and young people extremely well and work with them and their families to develop effective plans to secure the provision that they need. As a result, children and young people typically have positive experiences and their educational and wider outcomes are strong.

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The smallness of the City is also a challenge. The large majority of the services and support that children and young people with SEND need are located outside the City's boundaries. The local offer is therefore complex and can be difficult to navigate for parents, carers and some professionals. This is particularly the case for health services where there children and young people with SEND receive support from different health providers in different local areas and sometimes across different Integrated Care Boards.

Recommendations

1. Accelerate plans for the development of a neighbourhood health model so that children and young people with SEND can access the health services they need in their local area - **North East London ICB**.
2. Review the governance arrangements for SEND to minimise duplication and provide assurance that there is a clear focus on delivering the priorities in the SEND Strategy - **Local Partnership**.
3. Develop a clear definition of co-production across the local partnership and agree a small number of priorities for co-production with parents and carers **and** children and young people - **Local Partnership**.
4. Consider options to develop the cross-border commissioning of services to improve the SEND Local Offer, and particularly to increase the local availability of health services and specialist school places - **Local Partnership**.
5. Review the Local Offer website to update its content so that it includes the information that children, young people and families say they need, and to make it more easily navigable and searchable - **City of London Corporation**.
6. Finalise the strategy for alternative education provision - **City of London Corporation**.

7. Review SENDIASS to ensure it has the capacity to meet the needs of families in the City and is able to offer them the information and advice they need in a timely way, and consider options for the provision of advocacy services for parents- **City of London Corporation.**
8. Consider options to improve the timeliness of direct payments - **City of London Corporation.**
9. Develop a multi-agency quality assurance framework for SEND - **Local Partnership.**
10. Update the self-evaluation to fully reflect the strengths of the local partnership and explains how partners are working together to address challenges and areas for development - **Local Partnership.**

Peer Review

Peer Reviewers

Ian Dodds	Executive Director of Children's Services	LB Richmond upon Thames
Charis Penfold	Director of Education Services	Achieving for Children
Chike Nnalue	Associate Director for SEND	Achieving for Children
Catherine Marks	SEND Service Manager	Achieving for Children
Oliver Stewart	Designated Clinical Officer for SEND	NHS South West London ICB
Diane Sanderson	Designated Social Care Officer for SEND	Achieving for Children
Megan Francis-Falkner	SEND Project Officer	Achieving for Children

Approach and Scope

It is important to remember that a peer review is not an inspection; peer reviewers act as critical friends by challenging a local authority and its partners in the local area to assess their strengths and identify their own areas for development. This peer review of SEND services involved reviewing data and documents provided by the City of London Corporation, sampling a small number of Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans, and interviewing stakeholders involved in the local area SEND system, including meeting with parents, carers, children and young people. The stakeholders interviewed provided useful information and insight. At the request of the Local Partnership, the peer review was focused on preparation for the local area SEND inspection. We have therefore used the [Area SEND Inspection Framework and Handbook](#) (Ofsted and CQC, 2023) to structure our peer review activities, as well as the main findings and recommendations in this report.

Document and data review

The following documents were reviewed as part of the peer review:

Strategies and Plans

- Corporate Plan, 2024-2029
- Children and Young People's Plan, 2022-2025
- SEND Strategy, 2020-2024
- Short Breaks Strategy

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Governance

- SEND governance and organisational charts
- Terms of reference for panels and boards
- Minutes of the safeguarding sub-committee

Document and data review continued

The following documents were reviewed as part of the peer review:

Guidance

- Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment Guidance
- SEND Ranges and Provision Mapping
- Alternative Provision Position Statement
- Early Years Inclusion Fund Guidance
- Steps to Adulthood Guidance

Quality Assurance

- Self-Evaluation, March 2024
- SEND Performance Dashboard, March 2024

Case Tracking

Case tracking was completed for six individual children. These cases were selected from all EHC Plans supported by the City of London Corporation. The following documents were reviewed in each case (where relevant):

- Case summary
- Professional advice submitted for the child's EHC needs assessment
- EHC Plan
- EHC Annual Review
- Social care assessments, plans and reviews
- Multi-agency audit

As part of the case tracking, conversations were also held with professionals involved in the case. The parent(s) or carer(s) of the child or young person were also contacted in order to understand their views and experiences.

Interviews

Meetings were held with the following groups of stakeholders:

- Strategic leaders responsible for SEND in the local area
- Education representatives from early years, school and post-16 settings
- Representatives from education, health and social care involved in transitions
- Parent-carers, including representatives from the City Parent-Carer Forum
- Representatives from health providers and the NEL ICB

Findings

Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support - STRENGTHS

Professionals know children and young people well and place them at the centre of their thinking and actions. Children, young people and their families are encouraged and supported to participate in decision-making about their EHC Plans and discussions about their futures. This includes children in need and children looked after by the City of London. The SEND caseworker knows children extremely well and works well with professionals to make sure that children's plans and support packages reflect their views and aspirations. The caseworker engages with families in an open and honest manner, and delivers on agreed actions in a timely way. As a result, there is a trusting relationship between families and the service, and any concerns or issues are resolved quickly.

Children's and young people's views are extensively represented in the advice provided for EHC needs assessments. Person-centred meetings are held to consider the advice in needs assessments and draft EHC Plans. There is good evidence that children's and young people's voices are included in discussions and decision-making about their individual plans and support. This includes children and young people attending meetings in person, sharing their views prior to the meeting, or making recordings to share with the meeting. Children and young people have access to advocates if needed, and information is presented in accessible and age-appropriate formats.

Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Parents and carers would benefit from being able to access an advocacy service, particularly for any challenging meetings about their children's plans and support. This was particularly noted for parents and carers whose first language is not English. In inspection, you may wish to have examples of how you have supported parents whose first language is not English to access and understand their children's plans and provision.

Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way - STRENGTHS

Support for children in the early years is a considerable strength with a good local offer in place for families in the City. There is effective identification of children with additional needs by health visiting services through the five mandated contacts. This enables effective signposting to services, the provision of support, and referrals for assessments where needed. The children's centre provides strong multi-agency support to children with additional needs and their parents or carers from the outset. This includes innovative speech, language and communication support, such as Verbo and Talk In Walk In sessions.

Professionals engage in early assessment activities with children and young people which provides a very good understanding of children's needs and the provision of support before a formal EHC needs assessment is completed. When a needs assessment is required, the provision of advice is generally of high quality, timely and effectively utilises the knowledge gained through any early assessment(s). As a result, EHC needs assessments are completed in a timely and effective way and **all** EHC Plans are completed within the statutory timescale. The quality of EHC Plans is good. There has been a sharp increase in the number of requests for needs assessments in recent months; however, this has been planned well and resources have been allocated to address the increasing workload.

Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way - STRENGTHS continued

The City SEND Ranges provide a useful and effective framework for staff in early years and education settings to support the early identification of children's needs, provide advice on adaptations, and guidance on assessment.

Diagnoses are not needed for an EHC needs assessment. Children and young people do not wait too long for their needs to be assessed in high-demand services such as CAMHS or speech and language therapy. In part this is because a relatively large number of families choose to use private therapists for these assessments. There are waits for neurodevelopmental assessments; however, support is provided for those children and young people who are waiting. Specific pre-diagnostic support is offered to families waiting for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessments.

Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way - STRENGTHS continued

Planning and decision-making panels for individual children are effective and ensure timely assessment and the provision of support. The SEND Panel is responsible for decision making on EHC needs assessments, plans and annual reviews. These processes are effective. The Transitions Panel tracks, plans and supports the transition of young people into post-16 provision. There are also a number of operational partnership groups, such as the SENCO Network and Vulnerable Children Group, which support identification, assessment and planning.

Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time

- STRENGTHS

EHC Plans are effective at providing the support that children and young people need. Annual Reviews are timely and effective. The SEND caseworker and Educational Psychologist attend all Annual Reviews and amendments to plans are made in a timely manner, meaning that changing needs are responded to effectively. Early Annual Reviews are held where needed.

There is a strong multi-agency support offer for children through schools for children with an EHC Plan and those receiving SEND Support. The very large majority of children and young people attend education settings that meet their individual needs. Multi-agency support in schools includes therapies and a Mental Health Support Team (MHST). The local area provides training for school-based staff and other professionals so that they have the skills they need to support children and young people with SEND. There were examples of effective training provided by the educational psychology service and the Virtual School's DESTY emotional resilience programme.

Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time - **STRENGTHS** continued

It is recognised that providing the right help and support at the right time for children and young people receiving SEND Support is more challenging because they attend a number of schools across a wide geographical area outside of the City. A tracker has been put in place to monitor the support and progress for children and young people receiving SEND Support. It is not clear whether this tracker is proving to be an effective tool and you may wish to review this.

There is good evidence that EHC Plans are effective and making a positive difference to children and young people. Educational and wider outcomes for children and young people with SEND are good. Parents provide positive reports about the quality of the help and support that their children receive from the services delivered or commissioned by the Local Partnership.

Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is often a challenge in identifying the right health provider for children and young people with specific needs. This is because there are a number of different health organisations in different local areas and different Integrated Care Systems providing services to children and families in the City. This is confusing to some professionals and to families. Parents also report having to travel to settings some distance from the City to access health assessments and other services. This was particularly mentioned in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). There are steps to establish a neighbourhood health model for The City and Shoreditch Park which could alleviate some of these challenges. Any opportunity to accelerate these plans would be welcome. For inspection, it would be beneficial to have a clear statement of intent, plan and timescale for this work.

Children and young people have good access to direct payments to obtain the help and support they need; however, some parents reported that there were initial delays in direct payments being arranged which meant that support could not be put in place in a timely way. You may therefore wish to review your decision-making and administrative processes for direct payments.

Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT continued

The Local Offer website is underdeveloped and some content is dated. This means that families, schools and professionals do not always know what is available to them and their children. This is particularly important given the network of support provided to children with SEND is delivered by a wide number of organisations both within and outside the City. Several stakeholders identified that shared services between the City and other local areas were not always accessible to them, especially when they are located or delivered by or in Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets. Families report that the Local Offer website is difficult to navigate, has a poor search function, and there have been technical issues with the accessibility and translation functions, which have now been fixed.

Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes - STRENGTHS

There is effective planning and support for children moving onto school and between the Key Stages of education. The transition to Key Stage 3 is well planned given that children and young people attend a wide range of school settings outside of the City. There is good evidence that children and young people are engaged in planning their next steps. They take a more active role in planning their post-16 position where one young person described being the 'driving force' in his education and life.

Preparation for adulthood routinely starts when young people reach the age of 14. They are referred to the Transitions Forum where there is effective multi-professional planning and joint working across education, health and social care providers, that supports smooth transitions to adult services.

Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is a good post-16 offer for young people in the City of London which offers a range of educational and vocational training opportunities. There may be the potential to better harness the City of London's connections and resources to expand the range of vocational opportunities for young people and strengthen their pathways into employment. This includes developing supported internship, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities both within and beyond the City.

The role of the Preparing for Adulthood Partnership Lead could be strengthened and better embedded in the City. It is a shared role with Hackney. This would enable Preparing for Adulthood in the City developments to be taken forward at greater pace. This should include ensuring young people have access to good careers advice and guidance on the different education, training and access to employment opportunities open to them.

The complexities already identified in relation to health services for families living in the City are exacerbated during young people's transition to adulthood when further adult health services are introduced. This was particularly noticeable in relation to mental health services and the transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services.

Children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in their communities - STRENGTHS

Children and young people have different opportunities to participate in activities in their local communities. This includes inclusion in mainstream activities, targeted activities and access to short breaks. The Parent Carer Forum (PCF) identified the need to improve access to sports activities for children and young people with SEND. The City of London provided them with funding to work with Fusion Lifestyle and Exceptional Warriors to develop inclusive sports provision for children and young people with SEND at Golden Lane Sports and Fitness Centre. This includes swimming lessons, football classes and a teen gym for young people aged 15 to 25. The PCF has also worked with planners and others in the City of London Corporation to develop inclusive play facilities as part of the St. Paul's development.

There were good examples of children and young people with SEND being valued and celebrated in their schools and communities. This included the Shining Star Awards where the formal awards ceremony has been adapted to meet individual children's needs.

Children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in their communities - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Some parents were of the view that the City of London is not inclusive in its mindset, by which they mean that it does not proactively think about inclusion. Here they made a distinction between the directorate responsible for children's services, which they reported was very inclusive, and the wider City of London Corporation and its institutions, which they reported were not. There may be benefit in producing a clear statement or charter that sets out the City's ambition for inclusion in relation to children and young people with SEND.

There was some confusion from stakeholders, including parents, about what is meant by co-production. The majority of the examples that were given by parents and carers showed limited co-production, including the City giving funding to the PCF to develop services or being consulted on the development of a new SEND strategy and Carers' Strategy. The development of the play facilities at St. Paul's is a clearer example of co-production. There were no examples of co-production with children and young people. Although Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission use a fairly broad definition of co-production, it would be useful to develop an agreed definition of co-production across local area partners and with parents and carers, and it would be beneficial to agree a small number of co-production priorities each year. This could lead to an evidence-bank of examples that demonstrate impact and outcomes for use in an inspection.

Leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND and have an accurate, shared understanding of their needs - STRENGTHS

There is a clear vision and ambition for children and young people with SEND. The SEND Strategy is currently being refreshed based on a clear multi-agency assessment of local need. There is strong engagement from partner organisations in this work, as well as from parents and carers. Leaders respond to changing needs. For example, they have responded quickly to a significant increase in requests for EHC needs assessments. There are comprehensive strategies, plans and guidance that support the delivery of the main SEND Strategy.

There is strong engagement from partners in the strategic SEND Programme Board which is responsible for driving forward the SEND Strategy. The Board has representation from all local area partners as well as from parents and carers. The Board is jointly chaired by senior leaders from education, health and social care and there is a real sense of shared ownership and accountability for the strategy and the local area plans, as well as strategic teamwork. There is evidence that members use the Board to constructively challenge each other and hold each other to account.

The SEND Programme Board has identified clear priorities for joint working. These include supporting inclusion and early intervention, increasing parental engagement in co-production, and reducing waiting times for ASD and ADHD assessments.

Leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND and have an accurate, shared understanding of their needs - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The governance arrangements for SEND are complex. This is understandable given the complexity of arrangements across different local areas and different shared service arrangements. In addition to the SEND Programme Board, there are a number of other strategic partnerships that have some strategic oversight of SEND services, especially in the health space, including the Children, Young People, Families and Maternity Board and the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Each partnership or board has clear terms of reference. Operational governance arrangements are much clearer. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is completing a deep-dive on SEND at its System Quality Board which will look at SEND governance in health to determine whether any improvements are needed; however, it would be helpful to review all the strategic governance arrangements for SEND so that the local area can be assured that any duplication is minimised. For the inspection, it would be helpful to have a clear governance structure that explains arrangements.

Leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people - STRENGTHS

Leaders use local intelligence well to commission the services that children need and that help them to achieve their aspirations. Leaders have good oversight of the services they deliver and commission inside and outside the City. This means that they are confident in the effectiveness of services and are clear about outcomes.

Leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Leaders report that securing specialist school provision for children and young people is increasingly challenging. This is a national issue, but is more complicated because there is no specialist school provision within the City with nearly all children attending schools in other local areas. There may be opportunities for development work and joint commissioning with other local authorities to enhance the local offer and expand access to specialist school places. Similarly, there are challenges in the cross-border commissioning of health services which may benefit from a coordinated approach for the City.

The provision of alternative education provision has not yet been fully considered. This is because the City has not yet needed to place any children or young people in alternative provision. Work has started to develop the City's approach to alternative education provision. Completing this at pace should be a priority.

Parents and carers report that some commissioned services provided by other local areas are ineffective for City families because they are not easily accessible or because there is insufficient capacity. Parents reported that SENDIASS is overwhelmed with demand from families in Tower Hamlets, meaning that City families do not get equal access to information and advice on SEND.

Leaders evaluate services, make improvements and create an environment for effective practice and multi-agency working to flourish - STRENGTHS

Leaders have effective oversight of services and understand where services need to develop or improve. For example, there is a very clear understanding and commitment to improving access to CAMHS services. Leaders from across the local area partnership are also focused on improving practice for individual children and young people, They monitor attendance, educational achievement and EHC Plan outcomes. They visit settings and routinely track the impact that each provision has on each child or young person with SEND, taking suitable action where necessary to ensure that all children achieve well.

Leaders evaluate services, make improvements and create an environment for effective practice and multi-agency working to flourish - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The self-evaluation does not fully capture the effective work and positive outcomes that are being achieved for children and young people with SEND in the City. The current self-assessment contains a lot of descriptive narrative. It would be strengthened by adding clearer and more current examples of the positive changes that have been implemented since the last inspection, highlighting the positive impact of services and the outcomes they achieve for children and young people. It should also explain the current challenges and areas for development and the actions that the local partnership is taking to address these. Quotes from children, young people, parents, school leaders and partners would add impact to the self-evaluation.

There does not appear to be an established quality assurance framework or programme for SEND services that can be used by multi-agency partners, although some quality assurance activity does happen within individual services, such as educational psychologists quality assuring each other's advice. A more formal quality assurance process would be beneficial, especially for the EHC assessment, planning and review process.

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26 July 2024

Deborah Bell
Strategic Director of Education and Skills – City of London Corporation

Sent via email: Deborah.Bell@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Dear Deborah

SEND Engagement Meeting held on 9 July 2024

In attendance:

Deborah Bell	Strategic Director of Education and Skills
Tim Godsmark	Parent Carer Forum representative
Mark Cossey	Parent Carer Forum representative
Judith Finlay	Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services
Chris Pelham	Assistant Director of People
Kirstie Hilton	Head of Service Education and Early Years
Sarah Darcy	Strategic Lead for Children and Young People, NHS North East London
Hannah Hickman	Speech and Language Therapy Service Manager, Homerton University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and Designated Clinical Officer for City and Hackney
Amy Wilkinson	Director of Partnerships, Impact and Delivery NHS North East London ICB & City and Hackney Place Based Partnership
Montserrat Pérez-Parent	Senior HMI for Further Education and Skills, Ofsted
Daniel Carrick	Children Service’s Inspector, CQC

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss SEND provision in your local area and: how the local area partnership is meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND in the local area; how you are improving services for children and young people with SEND and their families; to identify any issues of concern and how the partnership is remaining up to date with any changes to the local SEND system.

You provided us with an update on the City of London context, focusing on SEND. There are small numbers of resident children with education, health and care (EHC) plans as a result of the City’s small overall population. However, you noted that the proportion has increased by 64% since 2019. The most common primary need is autistic spectrum disorder. You also report an increase in the complexity of cases. You

have the capacity to know these children and their families well. You pride yourselves on the fact that parents and carers have the knowledge that their child's EHC plan will be completed in 20 weeks and with their involvement.

Only 15% of resident children attend school in the City, with the rest attending schools in 11 other local authorities. You told us that you have focused on identifying children with SEND needs who are educated outside of the City and have developed a tool that tracks their support and attendance. You want to develop this further to allow you to monitor their outcomes too.

You told us that you have strong relationships with parents and carers and listen to them. You gave us an example of how your libraries now have longer opening hours and close late on certain days in response to requests from parents and carers. Representatives from the parent carer forum told us that they get a good service and are involved in decision making processes. They particularly welcome having a named and consistent case worker and the range of activities available to children with SEND, such as swimming classes.

Parents and carers recognise that not everything can be delivered in the City, but they highlight that getting to appointments by public transport is a challenge. You are working together to help parents and carers navigate the complexities of how to access support for each of the different pathways. There is already ongoing work to improve access, including to the local offer. For example, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists visit families at home where possible.

You reported that you do not want to be complacent and have recently commissioned a peer review to give you an external assessment of how you can continue to learn and improve the services you offer. You are pleased that this review has validated your own assessment of what you do well and provided constructive feedback on areas that you can improve further, such as co-production and better co-ordination of the parents' and carers' views you collect. You will be using the outcomes of the review to inform your new SEND strategy for 2024-2029.

You have been working with health colleagues across the City and Hackney since 2018. This allows you to analyse data and trends for a larger area. You have used the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process to report better on SEND needs and you are developing an integrated dashboard to improve the use of data to inform service commissioning.

You reported strong outcomes for children and young people with SEND needs who attend the one primary school located in the City of London.

An area you want to improve is your local offer. Parents and carers have told you that they would like more access to short breaks and health services, and better ways for finding out what the offer is and where services are located. You plan to involve children and families in the re-design of your local offer.

You are proud of the high levels of personalisation you offer to meet the needs of children with SEND and their families, and your person-centered approach to commissioning services for them. You gave us an example of an online speech and

language therapy tool designed locally by Homerton Healthcare Foundation Trust Speech and Language Therapy Service that enables schools to screen children, identify targeted support and identify methodologies to support them effectively.

You provided us with a list of the many and varied ways in which you measure the impact of your work on children and young people with SEND. You use a range of information, including internal and external multi-agency audits to evaluate and inform your work.

Thank you again for a very constructive meeting.

Yours sincerely

Montserrat Pérez-Parent
Senior HMI, London

Daniel Carrick
Children's Services Inspector, CQC

Please note: This letter is not published by Ofsted and the comments made have not been evaluated as part of an inspection.

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SEND Peer Review - Action Plan

Updated: 24/07/2024

key	Progress
NOT STARTED	39%
R	0%
A	37%
G	15%
B	9%

Not started:
serious issues, dates being missed, recovery plan required.
some issues, being managed, needs to be closely monitored.
project is on track
completed actions (delivered project)

Theme	Recommendations /areas for consideration/findings from the Peer Review	REF	Action(s)	Deadline	RAG	Lead Team	DLT	Officers	Impact	PROGRESS/Current Position	Notes
1 Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way	1.1 Review SENDIASS to ensure it has the capacity to meet the needs of families in the City and is able to offer families the information and advice they need in a timely way, and consider options for the provision of advocacy services for parents	1.1.1	To look at whether SENDIASS can offer an advocacy service to young people over 16 years of age. To commission one clear day per week from SENDIASS for City families.	31/08/2024	G	SEND Team/ Commissioning team	DB/SC	SCU/JM	Families get the right support at the time	SCU progressing with Jenny Miller, Manager - Family Information, Advice and Support Service. Advocacy service and a minimum of 1.5 days a week for City families to be added to the SLA before it is finalised. 16/07/24 -Awaiting amended SLA from Legal	
	2.1 Parent/carer advocacy services, especially for families with EAL	2.1.1	To review what support SENDIASS offers for families with EAL	31/08/2024	G	SEND Team	DB	SCU	Families get the right support at the time	SCU progressing with Jenny Miller, Manager - Family Information, Advice and Support Service. Advocacy service and a minimum of 1.5 days a week for City families to be added to the SLA before it is finalised. 16/07/24 - Awaiting amended SLA from Legal	
2 Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support		2.1.2	To explore the advocacy service used by children's social care and whether we can use it to support young people with EHC Plans	31/08/2024	G	SEND Team	DB	SCU	Families get the right support at the time	SENDIASS SLA is being strengthened to include this. Using one service will ensure consistency for SEND young people. Using SENDIASS could also support the engagement of City young people in the Tower Hamlets Youth Forum.	
	3.1 Finalise the framework for Alternative Provision (AP) in the City of London	3.1.1	To review and adapt the SEND Panel Terms of Reference to become the SEND and AP Panel	30/09/2024	A	Ed and EY Service/SEND Panel Members	DB	KH/SCU	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	First draft of the Terms of Reference were presented at SEND Panel on 17/07/2024. QA framework to be finalised and Terms of Reference to be signed off in September	
3 Children and young people receive the right help and support at the right time		3.1.2	Commissioning team to adapt the Pan London AP Network Jackie M to update on adaptation of London Framework	31/07/2024	G	Commissioning team	SC/DB	JM/KH	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	First draft of the QA framework is complete. Comments have been added. KH and JM to meet in July to firm up	
		3.1.3	Commissioning team to use the framework to quality assure existing tuition services	30/09/2024	A	Commissioning team	SC/DB	JM/KH	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people		
	3.2 Review the Local Offer (LO) website to update its content so that it includes the information that children, young people and families say they need, and to make it more easily navigable and searchable	3.2.1	To ensure that the Translation functionality on the FIS is fully operational	31/07/2024	B	Early Years / FIS Team	DB	ID	Providing excellent information for families	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change	
		3.2.2	To review the LO pages and ensure that all information is accurate and up to date	30/09/2024	A	Early Years / FIS Team	DB	ID	Providing excellent information for families	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change	
		3.2.3	To work more closely with the CPCPF on developing the LO	31/12/2024	A	Early Years / FIS Team	DB	ID	Providing excellent information for families	The FIS Officer has contacted the CPCPF to arrange a time to meet with them and discuss further An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change	
		3.2.4	To look at the QA framework for the Family First Quality Award (FFQA) of the Family Information Service (FIS) and see if it covers QA of SEND and the LO	31/08/2024	G	Early Years / FIS Team	DB	ID	Providing excellent information for families	FFQ includes Families Information Service with SEND	
	3.3 Consider options to improve the timeliness of direct payments	3.3.1	For the Short Breaks Team to ensure that there is no delay in setting up direct payments for new families in receipt of them	31/10/2024	not started	Children's Social Care & Early Help Team	CP	RT/KN	Families having more control over the services they access for their children	The Direct Payments Policy looks really thorough - last reviewed July 2022. SCU has been in touch with the Short Breaks team to request a review of the direct payment procedure to ensure that there is no delay new families receiving them	
	3.4 Identifying the right health provider for children with specific needs	3.4.1	To ensure there is a clear statement of intent, plan and timescales around the neighbourhood health model for City and Shoreditch Park	31/12/2024	not started	Health	AW	SD/HH	Families get the right support at the time	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change	
3.5 Accelerate plans for the development of a neighbourhood health model so that children and young people with SEND can access the health services they need in their local area	3.5.1	Work with Health colleagues to ensure that a plan is in place	31/03/2025	not started	Health	AW	SD/HH	Families get the right support at the time	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change		
4 Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps and achieve strong outcomes	4.1 Extend apprenticeships and traineeships for children and young people with EHC Plans and those on SEN support	4.1.1	To work with the adult skills team to fully understand the offer so that it can be communicated to young people with SEND	31/12/2024	not started	Adult Skills Team/SEND Team	DB	BH	Young people moving into adulthood have access to a range of opportunities to suit their needs	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change	
		4.1.2	To ensure there is information readily available on the LO to all children and young people on how to access the apprenticeships and traineeships	31/10/2024	A	Early Years / FIS Team	DB	ID	Young people moving into adulthood have access to a range of opportunities to suit their needs	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change	

		4.2	Identify what support there is for young people with SEND to be prepared for their next steps in life	4.2.1	To look at what Prospects currently delivers for our CYP as a contracted service and whether this offer needs to be extended	tbc	not started	Commissioning Team	SC/DB	JM/SCu	Young people moving into adulthood have access to a range of opportunities to suit their needs	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
				4.2.2	To ensure that the offer available from Prospects to our families is advertised on the LO	30/09/2024	not started	Early Years / FIS Team	DB	ID	Young people moving into adulthood have access to a range of opportunities to suit their needs	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
		4.3	The transition for young people moving into adulthood, especially those with mental health needs is challenging. What support is available to families with young people transitioning?	4.3.1	Review and update the Terms of Reference for the City's Transitions Forum, to - ensure more rigour in eligibility to remain on the register - ensure that the forum is clear about the pathways for accessing adult health services	31/10/2024	not started	Ed and EY Service	DB	KH	Young people moving into adulthood will be fully supported and able to navigate their way into adult services	
		4.4	Access to an Adult Mental Health Practitioner (AMHP) for the City families	4.4.1	To confirm whether the City has an AMHP and if so, what the pathway is to accessing this service	31/08/2024	not started	Adult Social Care Team	DB/CP	KH/IT	Young people moving into adulthood will be fully supported and able to navigate their way into adult services	
		4.5	Provision of Post 16 support for children and young people with SEND	4.5.1	To explore what support Adult Skills can offer and how adult skills and Prospects link up to ensure an alignment of services	30/09/2024	not started	SEND Team	DB	BH/SCu	Young people moving into adulthood have access to a range of opportunities to suit their needs	
5	Children and young people with SEND are valued, visible and included in their communities	5.1	There may be benefit in producing a clear statement or charter that sets out the City's ambition for inclusion in relation to children and young people with SEND.	5.1.1	For the Strategy team to explore the development of a wider inclusion charter across the City Corporation	31/12/2024	A	Strategy Team	SC	EW	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	This is being developed as part of the SEND and AP Strategy An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
		5.2	Develop a clear definition of co-production across the local partnership and agree a small number of priorities for co-production with parents and carers and children and young people	5.2.1	For the strategy team to ensure that this work is built into the development of the SEND and AP Strategy	31/12/2024	A	Strategy Team	SC/DB	EW/SCu	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	This is being developed as part of the SEND and AP Strategy An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
		5.3	The work of the City Parent Carer Forum (CPCF) to continue and develop	5.3.1	To ensure that the work of the CPCF is built into the development of the SEND and AP Strategy	31/12/2024	A	Strategy Team	SC	EW	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
				5.3.2	To explore whether the City can support an increase in Jacqueline Wye's capacity	31/12/2024	A	CPCF	DB/SC	SCu/JW	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	CPCF agreed to draft proposal for funding from the City to support this. An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
				5.3.3	To discuss with the CPFC whether it would be of value for them to have a generic email account	31/12/2024	A	CPCF	DB/SC	SCu/JW	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
6	Leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND	6.1	Development of a new SEND and AP Strategy	6.1.1	Strategy Team to develop a fully collaborative Strategy for 2024-28	31/12/2024	G	Strategy Team	SC/DB	EW/KH	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	The Strategy team has worked with a group of parents, professionals and CYP to develop the strategy priorities. The strategy is currently out for consultation for 6 weeks. An action plan will start to be developed over the summer / into September An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
		6.2	Develop a multi-agency quality assurance framework for SEND	6.2.1	To contact AFC and request the QA Framework they currently use	31/07/2024	G	SEND Team	DB	SCu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	SC to contact AFC as QA Framework has been requested but not yet received
				6.2.2	QA framework to be adapted and agreed at AEB	31/12/2024	not started	SEND Team/Strategy Team	DB/SC	KH/EW	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	
7	Leaders actively engage and work with children, young people and families	7.1	Co-production - needs more genuine 'co-design of services'	7.1.1	Explore how the CPCF can work more collaboratively with the commissioning team to have influence on the design and delivery of services	tbc	not started	Commissioning Team	SC	GK	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
8	Leaders have an accurate, shared understanding of the needs of children and young people in their local area	8.1	Effectiveness of the School tracker in identifying children with persistent absence - attendance under 90% (PA), those who have attended AP and those on SEN Support	8.1.1	Review the tracker on an annual basis to ensure it is updated and compliant with GDPR	30/06/2024	B	Education Team	DB	KH/SCu	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	An annual census has taken place during the spring term. We have identified 332 children and young people in 68 schools. 53 children are on SEN Support and 43 are PA
				8.1.2	Identify CYP on the tracker who have attended AP or moved on to AP	30/06/2024	B	Education Team	DB	KH/SCu	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	There have only been two children in AP over the last academic year. We are aware of both children - both are known to social care
				8.1.3	Identify CYP on the tracker on SEN support and analyse key data including types of SEND	30/09/2024	A	Education Team	DB	KH/SCu	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	
				8.1.4	Engage with schools where more than three children with SEN support attend - send a copy of SEND ranges	31/12/2024	not started	SEND Team	DB	SCu	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	
				8.1.5	Engage with schools where children have been in or moved to AP.	31/10/2024	B	Education Team	DB	DK	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	All children attending AP over the last academic year have been identified
				8.1.6	Engage with schools where children are recorded as PA	31/10/2024	not started	Education Team	DB	DK	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	
				8.1.7	To request outcomes of children (stats only) - at key assessment stages	31/12/2024	not started	SEND Team	DB	SCu	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	
9	Leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people	9.1	Consider options to develop the cross-border commissioning of services to improve the SEND Local Offer, and particularly to increase the local availability of health services and specialist school places	9.1.1	To explore what opportunities there are with our neighbouring LAs to get access to provision including special schools	31/12/2024	not started	Commissioning team	SC	GK/JM	Understanding and anticipating the needs of our children and young people	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
				9.1.2	To explore how the co-production of services with the CPCF can take place to help ensure that all services affecting families with SEND are commissioned	31/12/2024	not started	Commissioning team	SC	GK	Families of children with SEND are fully part of an inclusive community and involved in the design and delivery of services	

10	Leaders evaluate services and make improvements	10	Self-evaluation document to fully reflect the strengths of the local partnership and explains how partners are working together to address challenges and areas for development	10.1.1	To review the SEF to ensure that it captures all the good work that we do	31/08/2024	A	Strategy Team	SC/DB	EW/SCu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	
		10	Documentation within the Annexe A	10.2.1	To ensure that all documents within the evidence library are up to date and dated correctly	30/09/2024	A	Business Support Team	SC	SC/KH/SCu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	Documents have been identified and updated. Logistics plan is being reviewed and updated
		10	Review the governance arrangements for SEND to minimise duplication and provide assurance that there is a clear focus on delivering the priorities in the SEND Strategy	10.3.1	To ensure that the SEND and AP Strategy clearly states what the governance arrangements are and they directly contribute towards positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND	tbc	A	Strategy Team	SC/DB	EW/SCu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
				10.3.2	A one-page governance map to be created to ensure clarity of governance arrangements	30/09/2024	A	Strategy Team	SC	EW	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	
11	Leaders create an environment for effective practice and multi-agency working to flourish	11	Evidence of impact	11.1.1	To develop an outcomes framework to measure and monitor both strategic and more general service ones such as outcomes in EHC plans	31/12/2024	A	SEND Team	DB	Scu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	This was explored at the Strategic Managers Network recently. Info will be shared when received. There are some good examples, and we may be able to get support around this. An action for the strategy. Deadline date may change
				11.1.2	Review all case studies in the evidence library - what do we need to ensure we have clear evidence of impact - children/young people with different needs	30/09/2024	A	SEND Team	DB	SCu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	
		11	Attendance at Team Meetings	11.2.1	Put together a high level presentation on what the area SEND inspection will look like	31/10/2024	not started	SEND Team/Strategy Team	DB/SC	SCu/EW	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	
				11.2.2	Presentation to be delivered to all team meetings within DCCS relevant to the Area inspection	31/12/2024	not started	SEND Team	DB	SCu	To improve processes, which result in the best support for our children and young people	

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Committees: Community and Children’s Services Committee Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee	Dated: 20/09/2024 09/10/2024
Subject: Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Liam Gillespie, Head of Housing Management, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 was given Royal Assent in May 2024 and will introduce wide-ranging changes to current legislation on residential long leases.

The bulk of the new Act is not expected to come into force until 2025/26, and the purposes of this paper is to outline the changes to Members and examine the implications for both the City Corporation as landlord, and for our leaseholders.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 (“the Act”) was given Royal Assent in May 2024 and introduces changes to the administration of residential leases in England and Wales.

2. The Act strengthens the rights of long leaseholders and simplifies the process of extending long leases or exercising rights to purchase the freehold of a property (known as enfranchisement).
3. The City Corporation manages a significant number of leasehold properties, including 955 on its social housing estates, and the Act will have implications for the management of these leases.

Main Provisions

4. The Act is extensive and addresses some long-standing areas of concern for those with long leasehold interests in residential property. Important provisions of the Act include:

- **Longer Lease Extensions**

The Act modifies the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 and gives lessees the right to extend their lease by 990 years, rather than the current 90 years for flats and 50 years for houses.

This will provide leaseholders with more security and reduce the expense and inconvenience of having to potentially apply for multiple lease extensions.

At the time of writing, 147 leases on our social housing estates have been extended by the statutory 90 years.

- **Abolition of 'Marriage Value'**

The Act abolishes the concept of 'marriage value', which significantly increases the cost of extending a lease when it falls below 80 years remaining. New methods will be provided for calculating the premium for lease extensions.

Marriage value is a component of the valuation when calculating the premium payable by the leaseholder for an extended lease. It reflects the increased market value of the extended lease, and legislation currently requires that this is shared between the leaseholder and the landlord.

The marriage value on a flat worth £500k is likely to exceed £20k, so the abolition of this concept will make extending sub-80-year lease much more affordable.

- **Minimum Ownership Requirements – Lease Extension**

The current requirement that a lessee must have held their lease for two years before they can exercise their right to extend it will be abolished, meaning that lessees can apply to extend from day one.

- **Service Charges and Ground Rent**

The Act will introduce standardised service charge demands, to increase transparency and clarity for leaseholders on the services they pay for. A schedule of administration costs must be provided, without which the costs will not be recoverable.

Restrictions are also placed on ground rent to prevent significant increases being applied. There will be a requirement for landlords to produce a year-end report with details of planned major works to relevant buildings. There will also be a legal right to buy out the ground rent.

These provisions are intended to enable homeowners to be able to challenge their landlord's service charge regime more readily and have greater transparency on ground rent costs.

The City Corporation has low ground rents of £10 per annum, which generated £8,530.00 in income for the HRA in 2023/24. It should be noted that leaseholders who have extended their leases no longer pay ground rent, as this is 'bought out' in that process.

- **Redress and Scrutiny**

The Act gives homeowners on private and mixed tenure estates comprehensive rights of redress, so they receive more information about what charges they pay, and the ability to challenge how reasonable they are. Landlords, including private managing agents, will be required to belong to an approved redress scheme.

- **Right to Manage**

The Act simplifies the process for leaseholders to assume management responsibility for their buildings. Leaseholders will now be able to exercise this right when up to 50% of the floorspace of their building is made up of commercial use, when previously the limit was 25%.

- **Property Purchase and Sale**

The purchase and sale of leasehold properties will be made easier, as a maximum timescale and fee will be set for the provision of home buying and selling information (sales packs).

- **Insurance**

The Act will require greater transparency around fees for arranging insurance.

- **Legal Fees**

The presumption that leaseholders must pay their landlords' legal costs when challenging poor practice will be abolished, which may encourage more leaseholders to exercise their rights in this regard without fear of incurring significant bills.

5. Only a small number of provisions within the Act have so far come into force, including minor amendments to the Building Safety Act 2022 relating to litigation costs for residents in a Right to Manage company (not relevant to the City Corporation), some technical insolvency provisions, and another section relating to the repossession of homes due to 'rentcharge' arrears (again, not relevant to the City Corporation's management of leases).
6. The remaining provisions require secondary legislation to give them effect, and this process is anticipated to take until 2025/26 according to the latest information available.
7. Until then, current rules on leasehold administration and the rights of lessees will continue to have effect.

Implications

8. The 2024 Act has significant implications for owners of residential leases on the City Corporation's housing estates, and our administration of these leases, including:

Lease Extensions

9. Members may be aware that a large proportion of leases granted on City Corporation housing estates were initial Right to Buy sales in the 1980s and 1990s; these leases were granted for 125 years and are therefore approaching the (currently) important 80-year mark, below which 'marriage value' and higher premiums apply for extension. A further issue is that the City Corporation opted to grant leases for 125 years *from the date of the first lease granted in the same building*, meaning that those exercising their Right to Buy in 2024 may be offered a lease with only 80-85 years remaining. This issue will be the subject of a separate Committee report.
10. While some leaseholders are currently taking advantage of the 90-year extension currently available, the abolition of marriage value and the opportunity to extend for 990 years will likely lead to an increase in extension applications once the new law comes into force.
11. The removal of marriage value, and the scrapping of the two-year residence requirement for extensions applications, is likely to make buying and selling leasehold properties easier, and we may experience an increase in open market sales activity.
12. These possible increases in workload will require us to consider staffing resources once the administrative demands become clearer. Lease extensions are administered by the Barbican Estate's Service Charges and Revenues Team, for both the Barbican and HRA estates, and an increase in applications may require at least a temporary increase in staffing.

Service Charge Statements

13. As the Act will provide for a standard format for service charge demands, the City Corporation will have to ensure that its IT systems can produce statements that meet legal requirements.
14. Feedback received from residents on our current service charge demands is that they could include more detail, particularly for non-routine items (major works), where cost headings are not sufficiently broken down into their constituent parts.
15. The detail of these new requirements is not yet available, however once published, changes will be made to ensure that we comply with the new rules.

Implications for Leaseholders

16. While the new Act will benefit leaseholders in various ways, the uncertainty around the commencement of the new provisions places some leaseholders in a difficult position. Those considering extending their leases may be unsure whether to wait until the new rights come into effect or take advantage of existing legislation.
17. Those with leases approaching the 80-year mark may be concerned about acting sooner rather than later, however as the new valuation criteria are not yet clear, it is difficult to guess whether it is worth waiting for the longer lease extension rights to come into effect. Indications are that for those with leases under 80 years remaining, it is likely to be cheaper to wait due to the abolition of marriage value, however the situation for leases over 80 years is less clear. Lease extensions under the new rules may prove more expensive, however this must of course be balanced with the benefits to be gained (a 990-year extension) and the potential increase in value of the leasehold interest as a result.
18. We are unable to advise individual leaseholders on the appropriate course of action, however there are various independent sources of advice for leaseholders such as that available through the Leasehold Advisory Service or the HomeOwners Alliance.

Proposals

19. Officers recently met with representatives from leaseholder associations at Golden Lane and Middlesex Street Estates, to discuss the new Act and the implications for City Corporation leaseholders. It was agreed that officers would set up a page on the Corporation's website to explain the changes, and sources of advice and information.
20. Additionally, articles on the new Act will be included in the Housing Division's newsletters and magazine, @home. As the guidance on the new Act is published, further information will be provided to leaseholders to ensure that they are aware of their rights and how to exercise them.
21. It is proposed that officers continue to monitor the implementation of the Act, and update residents and Members as the picture becomes clearer. Further work will

also be undertaken by officers to consider the implications for leasehold management and ensure that policies and procedures are ready for the remaining sections coming into force.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

Providing Excellent Services: our response to this plan, and any changes to policy and procedure, will help us manage residential leases effectively and improve the services provided to leaseholders; the effective management of our housing estates is integral to supporting the strategic aim of 'providing excellent services'.

Financial implications

At this stage, the financial implications for the City Corporation are not yet clear, however it is possible that there may be an increase in personnel and administrative costs around lease extensions and service charge accounting when the new Act comes into force. This will be given further consideration once timescales and workload demands become clearer.

Resource implications

See financial implications.

Legal implications

The new Act is a major piece of legislation in leasehold management and brings about significant changes to current practice. Further advice will be taken to ensure that we are compliant with the new obligations as they come into effect.

Risk implications

None.

Equalities implications

An equalities analysis will be conducted as the relevant guidance is issued, to ensure that we deliver on our obligations in an inclusive way. For instance, thought will be given to how we communicate with leaseholders to ensure they are aware of their rights and obligations, and the processes we have in place, and methods of communication, must be accessible and meet the diverse needs of residents living on our estates (e.g. IT accessibility).

Climate implications

None.

Security implications

None.

Conclusion

22. The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 brings in significant new rights for leaseholders and introduces changes to the way in which landlords must keep lessees informed about the charges they pay, enabling residents to hold them to account more easily.

23. The most eagerly anticipated parts of the Act, including those giving leaseholders a right to extend their leases for longer, and reducing the cost involved in doing so, are not expected to become law until 2025/26.
24. It is anticipated that there will be significant interest among residents seeking to extend their leases, given that a significant proportion of leases are diminishing in duration, having been granted with start dates in the 1980s and 1990s.
25. Officers will monitor the implementation of the Act and, once guidance becomes clearer, ensure that our processes, policies and communications are fit for purpose and meet the needs of residents on our estates.

Appendices

- None

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Committee(s): Community and Children's Services	Dated: 20 September 2024
Subject: Community & Children's Services (Non-Housing) Revenue Outturn Forecast as at Quarter 1 2024/25	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,12.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
Report of: The Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain	For Information
Report author: Mark Jarvis, Head of Finance & Beatrix Jako, Financial Business Partner, Chamberlain's Department	

Summary

1. This report sets out the Quarter 1 estimated outturn for the Community & Children's Services Committee budget (excluding the ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account (HRA)).
 - The total local risk projected overspend for the full year is currently £144k, mostly related to adult social care services and the Directorate's budget (see paragraphs 3,4 and 5).
 - The total central risk budget is projected to underspend by £930k, mostly related to higher than anticipated grant income (£1.5m) from the Home Office in relation to the Afghan Resettlement Scheme, offset by the increased cost of benefits administration (£300k) (see paragraphs 6 and 7).

Table A - Summary of DCCS Budget and Projected Outturn (excluding ring-fenced HRA Budget) 2024/25			
	2024/25 Latest Approved Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variation Underspend / (Overspend) £000
DCCS Revenue (see details in Table B)			
Net local risk expenditure	(14,600)	(14,744)	(144)
Net central risk expenditure	(1,193)	(263)	930
DCCS Local and Central Risk Net expenditure	(15,793)	(15,007)	786

Recommendation

2. That the Q1 projected outturn report for 2024/25 is noted.

Main Report

Quarter 1 Projected Outturn

Table B below gives the detailed forecast by service area.

	2024/25 Latest Approved Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variation Underspend / (Overspend) £000	Paragraph
<u>LOCAL RISK</u>				
Supervision and Management	(1,614)	(1,694)	(80)	3
Housing Services				
Other Housing Service	18	18	-	
Supporting People	(538)	(538)	-	
Service Strategy	(5)	(5)	-	
Total Housing	(525)	(525)	-	
People Services				
Older People	(1,774)	(1,604)	170	4
Adult Social Care	(2,705)	(2,982)	(277)	5
Occupational Therapy	(398)	(365)	33	
Homelessness	(3,328)	(3,328)	-	
Housing Benefit	104	104	-	
Children Social Care	(1,986)	(1,986)	-	
Total People Services	(10,087)	(10,161)	(74)	
Education and Skills				
Early Years & Childcare	(657)	(658)	(1)	
Other Schools Related Activity	(307)	(289)	18	
Adult Community Learning	(183)	(203)	(20)	
Total Education and Skills	(1,147)	(1,150)	(3)	
Partnerships				
Commissioning inc. recreation	(786)	(780)	6	
Public Health	28	28	-	
Youth Service	(179)	(172)	7	
Community Safety Team	(290)	(290)	-	
Total Partnerships	(1,227)	(1,214)	13	
TOTAL LOCAL RISK CITY FUND	(14,600)	(14,744)	(144)	

	2024/25 Latest Approved Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variation Underspend / (Overspend) £000	Paragraph
<u>CENTRAL RISK</u>				
Supervision and Management	(80)	(80)	-	
Commissioning inc. recreation	140	124	(16)	
Early Years and Childcare	(704)	(704)	-	
Other School Related Activity	748	823	75	
Asylum Seekers	(1,260)	(89)	1,171	6
Delegated Budget	30	30	-	
Other Housing Services	-	-	-	
Housing Benefit	(67)	(367)	(300)	7
Total Central Risk	(1,193)	(263)	930	
TOTAL LOCAL RISK & CENTRAL RISK CITY FUND	(15,793)	(15,007)	(786)	

3. The Directorate's local risk budget is projecting an overspend of £80k. There is a further potential spend coming in respect of resolving a long-standing staff dispute case.
4. The Older People local risk budget is projecting an underspend of £170k. It should be noted that we are awaiting agreements for placement costs uplifts, as a result this forecast is subject to change. This process is completed by Commissioning throughout the financial year.
5. The Adult Social Care local risk budget is forecasting an overspend of £277k, mainly due to large temp/agency costs and uplifts for client placements agreed and backdated for 2023/24. Some of these costs however may be able to be offset against specific grants before the year end in discussion with department leads.
6. The Asylum Seekers central risk budget is projected to underspend by £1.171m. This is due to higher than anticipated grant income of £1.5m from the Home Office in relation to the Afghan Resettlement Scheme which has resulted from under accruing the full costs eligible over the prior periods. Furthermore, there was an internal review of staff delivering duties for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) population. As a result of this review asylum related staff costs of £400k are now properly allocated to central risk rather than local risk.
7. Housing Benefit Administration central risk budget is projecting an estimated overspend of £300k. This is largely attributable to a shortfall between housing

benefits awarded for temporary accommodations and what the Department for Work and Pensions paid. Some of the accommodations are over their limit and shortage of temporary accommodation at reasonable prices led to the increasing shortfall in this area.

8. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme continues during the year. The costs involved with these programmes are fully met from government grants and have no impact on the Directors overall net forecast outturn.
9. In general it should be noted that both the social care and asylum budgets are very volatile and a small change in client numbers has a major effect on the eventual full year outturn.

Caroline Al-Beyerty
Chamberlain & CFO

Judith Finlay
**Director of Community &
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Committee(s): Community & Children’s Services Committee	Dated: 20 th September 2024
Subject: Wardmote updates	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1 & 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay Executive Director Community & Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Liane Coopey Business Support Manager (Housing)	

Summary

This report outlines Ward Mote updates. The last updates were presented verbally to Committee in July 2023

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Ward Mote Updates September 2024

- (i) **That the City of London supports a group of Common Councillors, City of London Officers, Anchor Management and Tudor Rose Court Residents’ Association Officers to call to account the management of Tudor Rose Court, the only residential facility for elderly people in the City**

The City of London Corporation (the Corporation) is the freeholder of Tudor Rose Court, 35 Fann Street, London, EC2Y 8DY. In 1997/98, the site was developed by

Network Housing Association Limited for the provision of sheltered housing, and a long head-lease was granted to Network Housing Association Limited for a Care Housing Scheme. In 2014, the head-lease was assigned to Hanover Housing Association (now Anchor Hanover Group).

Officers have met with representatives of the Tudor Rose Court Residents' Association and separately spoken with representatives from Anchor Hanover on several occasions to support resident views and engagement between residents and Anchor Hanover. The TRCRA and Anchor Hanover are now meeting regularly to progress the improvement plan. Officers from the Corporation have offered their involvement in those meetings as required and agreed a follow up discussion with Anchor Hanover in the Autumn.

- (ii) The Wardmote resolves that officers investigate the reasons for delays incurred since the planning for Crescent House was granted in December 2023 and from that report to produce a critical path programme for delivery, to be shared with residents no later than July 2024, such programme to encompass all the milestones for internal approval processes, design and anticipated construction timetabling both for Crescent House and the entire Golden Lane Estate”.**

Officers have investigated the delays experienced following the approval of additional design development funds by the Community & Children's Services Committee in November 2023 and the grant of Planning Permission for Crescent House in December 2023. The delay has been determined as being caused by issues with internal processes and resource issues which have now been resolved. Programme updates for both Crescent House and the wider Estate have been shared with residents via the project's website (www.goldenlane.site) in May 2024, and further updated in September 2024, with additional regular updates via the Residents' Liaison Group. More detailed programmes for the wider Estate will be developed and shared following submission of planning applications which are expected to be submitted in January 2025.

- (iii) The Wardmote resolves that the Landlord, Planners, Surveyors and other relevant City departments urgently seek agreement and funding for the parade of shops under Crescent House on Golden Lane Estate to remove external shutters which attract graffiti and prepare a programme of restoration of the street shop fronts and rear arcade, to enhance the attraction of the arcade in order that businesses can flourish as an important local amenity.**

City Surveyors have confirmed the status of the shutters with planners and are now looking at the insurance implications of the proposed changes. There are 4 units with shutters. As well as the insurance, City Surveyors are investigating what mechanism can be used to have the shutters moved internally. For the unit being let (6-10), City Surveyors are free to make it a condition of the letting, but for those with

tenants already in situ, the planning department may need to issue planning enforcement notices. Once the insurance implications have been ascertained, options regarding funding will be considered.

(iv) The Wardmote resolves to request the Corporation of London to immediately apply the abatement of 27% of structural repairs as set out in the Leases of Crescent House; or in the absence of this, to provide full reasons why this should not be done.

The Housing Division will apply the abatement to service charge accounts, as advised to Crescent House leaseholders in writing on 9th April 2024. The letter confirmed decisions made in relation to the to the definition of “eligible costs” within Clause 4(4)(b) of the Crescent House lease after the Corporation sought legal advice on the effect of this clause in the agreement.

As a result of that advice, and with the approval of the relevant Corporation committee, the Corporation agreed to abate (that is, reduce) future and historic service charges (back to 2012/2013) under all current and future leases at Crescent House by:

- 27% in relation to external and structural repairs and decoration works; and
- 3.9735% in relation to works to common parts and lifts.

The refund for historic charges will be applied by way of a credit to 68 service charge account by the end of October 2024. Individual leaseholders will be written to once the final calculations have been made, and rebates have been credited

These abatements will also be applied, where applicable, to the upcoming window replacement works and to all future applicable works at Crescent House.

(v) That the relevant Committee consider whether current tenants of the City of London Corporation have the same options as leaseholders with regards to installation of sprinklers, and where a current tenant opted out then sprinklers be installed on a change of tenant.

Tenants have rights/options established in their tenancy agreement and Leaseholders in their lease. The City of London Corporation can only obtain access under a lease if notice is given and the proposed works are urgently required. The City of London Corporation cannot currently enforce the installation of sprinklers under the lease.

Tenants cannot normally refuse access for works. However, there is an outstanding issue regarding access for a tenanted residential unit for installation of a sprinkler system. The tenant claims that the City of London Corporation does not, under his tenancy agreement, have the right to obtain access. This is currently subject to legal

proceedings which will not be resolved until 2025. Once the precedent has been set with this case, we will be able to formalise our processes for tenants.

- (vi) **That the relevant Committee and/or Department of the City of London Corporation investigate whether there was a statutory nuisance or health and safety hazard under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System in the Mansell Street Estate with regard to pest infestation, and any necessary steps taken to resolve any nuisance identified.**

Resolution from the Ward of Portsoken

1. The City Environmental Health officer has reviewed all 3 complaints received by the City of London Corporation between 1st January 2024 and 1st June 2024 in relation to the Guinness Estate to ensure they have either been resolved or a resolution is in action, each complaint had indeed been resolved or the treatment was in progress.
2. Officers met with Guinness Partnership on 6th June 2024 to discuss and examine the following for the Estate –
 - Details of the pest control contract,
 - Species of pests being complained about,
 - The number of complaints in the past 6 months
 - The response and resolution times
 - The outcomes of each complaint.
 - Future arrangements for the Guinness Pest Control contract.
3. A statutory nuisance or a health and safety hazard under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System requiring formal action has not been identified on the Estate, however a number of actions have been requested of Guinness to improve the response to pest control issues for residents of the Estate.
4. Residents are requested to contact their Estate Manager is the first instance to report pest issues, residents concerned about any response received is encouraged to make contact with the Pollution Control Team on 02076063030 or pollution@cityoflondon.gov.uk
5. Environmental Health Officers have undertaken surveys and have required a number of actions of landowners in the local area in relation to increasing pest treatments and undertaking preventative works.

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