

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 7 May 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee held at
Committee Room 1 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at
11.00 am

Present

Members:

David Sales (Chairman)
Deputy Christopher Boden (Deputy Chairman)
Mercy Haggerty
Ruby Sayed
Steve Stevenson

Officers:

Simon Cribbens	-
Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health
Jayne Moore	- Clerk
Scott Myers	-
Kirstie Hilton	-

1. APOLOGIES

As the most senior Member, Deputy Christopher Boden took the Chair until the election of the Chair for the ensuing year.

Apologies were received from Deborah Oliver who was unable to attend due to a clash with the City Bridge Foundation Board.

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

Ruby Sayed declared that she is the appointed governor for the City of London on the East London NHS Foundation Trust.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT

The Committee received the Order of the Court setting out the Committee's membership and terms of reference for the 2025-26 municipal year.

A Member commented that it would be helpful for the statutory provisions referenced in the Terms of Reference to be clearly signposted.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR

A single expression of interest being received, David Sales was duly elected to the post of Chair for the ensuing year.

David Sales thanked his predecessor Deputy Christopher Boden for his dedication and contributions, and thanked Andrew Mayer and Michael Hudson for their hard work.

The newly-elected Chair welcomed new Members Ruby Sayed and Mercy Haggerty.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

One expression of interest being received, Deputy Christopher Boden was duly elected Deputy Chair.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting of 29 January 2025 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

7. **ACTIONS**

The Committee noted the report of the Clerk.

On action 2, the Committee noted the following update:

Imago (the carer support services provider commissioned by the City of London Corporation) has provided IAG training on these four areas:

- Advocacy
- Lasting power of Attorney
- Carer identification schemes
- Carers Rights

There is some upcoming Carers Champion training for businesses starting in June 2025.

8. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee noted the Forward Plan.

In response to a request for clarification on what determines the Forward Plan, the meeting heard that the plan is agreed between Members and Officer, taking into account inspection and evaluation timetable and input from Healthwatch.

A Member asked that Primary Care for residents in the ward of Portsoken be added to the Forward Plan for scrutiny.

9. **SYSTEM CONTEXT AND THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee heard an update and summary on the systems and services, and the role of the Committee.

The Committee noted these points:

- The Committee's role is primarily that of oversight and scrutiny;

- The Committee's responsibilities towards non-residents differs across various areas in line with relevant legislation;
- An update on sexual health services is expected to be provided to the Committee within the next year;

A Member sought clarification that the Committee's responsibilities around mental health services and support were being properly scrutinised in respect of workers and residents. The meeting heard that the East London NHS Foundation Trust provides certain City and Hackney services among other services that includes mental health service provision and that further information on mental health services (including prevention and treatment) is expected to be scrutinised at future meetings.

A Member asked for further information on the challenges faced by City of London teams. The meeting noted that of the 9-11K residents of the City the population tended to be older, and varied greatly depending on the ward. Members also noted mixed levels of data reliability given the small numbers involved, noting also the disproportionately high demand on sexual health services, and the increased focus on suicide prevention due to the nature of the area. Members also noted some tensions around devolved funding related to place-based funding relating to the City and Hackney place-based partnership.

A Member asked for more information on the public health perspective around minority communities, including homeless people.

A Member sought confirmation that information between the Committee and the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is shared. The meeting heard that there is some duplication but that the Committee takes a higher level view in general and agreed that updates be provided as a matter of course.

Members acknowledged the high quality of the City's adult social care provision.

10. **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee noted the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Director of Public Health setting out the proposed way forward for the City of London's Health and Wellbeing Board development.

Members commented on the merits of regular dialogue between the Chairs of the Committee and of the Health and Wellbeing Board to reduce the risk of duplication.

Members noted the difficulty of meaningful data given the specific nature of the demands on health services in the City, and commented on the merits of ensuring that the right data was made available to ensure that the Committee and the Board were able to properly scrutinise the service provision, noting the potential for AI to support better data collection.

The Committee approved the proposed way forward.

11. WAITING TIMES FOR ADHD AND LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

The Committee viewed the presentation on Neurodevelopmental Pathways for Autism and ADHD by members of the City and Hackney Place-based Partnership team.

Members noted the significant strain on resources and the initiatives to improve access to healthcare, particularly for those with autism and ADHD.

A Member commented on the apparent disparities in diagnosis around autism and SEND provision within the City area, commenting on the apparent paucity of data (including disparities in gender, age and ethnicity). The meeting heard that while there is more to do and progress is being made, work is ongoing particularly in the Tower Hamlets area (including an Autism Improvement Network that focusses on children and young people) towards a consistent offer across the area.

The meeting heard that the data currently suggests that more women than men are being seen for autism (approx. 53-47) as adults, suggesting late diagnosis in the case of females attributable to a range of factors.

The meeting heard that the significant financial constraints at all levels, including Integrated Care Boards, are such that priorities are an ongoing consideration.

A Member commented that there is merit in lobbying for more funding, and asked for further information on the extent to which a more holistic approach is adopted.

The meeting heard that a range of programmes are under way in schools to support neuro-diversity and educate the school environment to better understand needs and lead to more timely diagnosis and identification.

12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds

that the involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

15. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the proposed closure of the Leadenhall Sexual Health Clinic once the lease expires in November 2025, noting also that no alternative location is currently available. The meeting noted that the matter is to be discussed in greater detail at the Corporation's Health and Wellbeing Board on 09 May 2025 and that Members will have an opportunity to put forward their views on the matter. Members noted that more people are accessing sexual health services online, fewer people are accessing the clinic's services, and other such clinics are available in the vicinity. Members commented on the need to ensure that access to such services continues to be clearly available to all.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Jayne Moore