

Committee:	Dated:
Safer City Partnership	26 February 2018
Subject: Community and Children's Services Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For information
Report author: Marcus Roberts, Head of Strategy and Performance, DCCS	

Summary

This report provides an update of relevant data and activity from Community and Children's Services.

Recommendations

- Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

1. This report summarises key developments in five areas: homelessness and rough sleepers, drugs and alcohol, suicide prevention, the Children and Young People's Plan and domestic abuse.

Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

Latest trends

2. During Q3 of 2018-19, the number of rough sleepers in the City of London increased significantly by 99 people to 212, a rise of 87% compared to Quarter 2. There had been a sustained reduction in the number of rough sleepers until this period.
3. The increased number of rough sleepers can be largely attributed to the increased number of new rough sleepers. They account for almost 50% of the rough sleeping population in Q3, compared with 20% in Q2.
4. Almost eight in 10 new rough sleepers reported in the period did not spend a second night out, which is an improvement in performance compared with the previous quarter. Seven of the new rough sleepers joined the longer-term living on the street cohort and the number of RS205 clients increased slightly to 11, this is the group with the most entrenched problems.
5. The spike in the number of rough sleepers is being investigated by the Outreach team and City Corporation performance analysts.

6. We know that there is a public perception of a higher number of rough sleepers in the City than is in fact the case due to people perceiving beggars as rough sleepers, even though they are not 'bedded down'. The uniqueness of the City's geographical location and size mean rough sleepers and people perceived as rough sleeping will be navigating through the City even if they may reside in another borough.
7. It is not certain if the increase in rough sleepers will establish a new norm or is an outlier. Further investigations and discussions are ongoing with neighbouring boroughs to understand the effect of their activities and whether these could have resulted in a 'push' or 'pull' of rough sleepers to the City.

Latest activities

8. DCCS ran a campaign with the Greater London Authority (GLA) from 17 December 2018 to 4 February 2019, displayed on kiosks and digital screens at City mainline stations and other high footfall areas. This was part of a pan-London campaign to reduce long-term rough sleeping and improve access and support for those who require specialist professional intervention. There was a focus on encouraging members of the public to make referrals via Streetlink.
9. Metrics from the GLA show that the winter awareness campaign was well-received by the public and businesses in the City and there is evidence that referrals to Streetlink rose over the course of the campaign.
10. DCCS proposes to launch an Alternative Giving Campaign in later Spring, which will build on the learning from the GLA Alternative Giving pilot with TAP London; from the Heart of London Business Alliance which has funded 12 TAP units across the West End; and the Cheapside Business Alliance, which has its own TAP London initiative. TAP London devices enable the public to donate to homelessness initiatives using a contactless payment card or payment device.

Drugs and Alcohol

11. The DCCS Public Health Team is supporting the work of the Drugs and the City Working Group, which met for the first time in December and will prioritise:
 - Improved understanding of and responses to dependent and problematic drug use in the City
 - Supporting venues operating within the Night Time Economy to reduce drug-related harms
 - Work with employers to promote advice and understanding and to highlight the consequences of a criminal conviction.

12. A City Corporation Alcohol Strategy is being developed by the Safe Sociable London Partnership and will be ready for consultation with local stakeholders, including City businesses, from late spring 2019.

Suicide prevention

13. DCCS delivered another Samaritans' led Suicide Prevention Awareness training session in early February, marking Time to Talk Day. The session was at capacity (22 participants) and delivered in partnership with the City of London Police, hosted at Franklin Templeton Investments. Nine different organisations were represented; the session received excellent feedback:

- 100% of attendees stating they felt the session helped them to feel more confident in identifying and approaching someone who is at crisis point and who might be considering suicide;
- 95% said that the session had helped them to feel more confident in talking to their colleagues about suicide prevention, through delivering a seminar or training session.

14. A presentation on the City of London's Bridge Pilot and our collaborative suicide prevention work was delivered to an audience of 250, during a session on "suicide prevention with people of working age" at the National Suicide Prevention Alliance's Annual Conference in February. The team has been invited to deliver the same presentation to Revo – the retail consortium of companies who own and manage shopping centres across the UK.

Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

15. A new Children's Partnership Board (CPB) met for the first time on the 28 January. The CPB will provide a focus and forum for partnership work to improve outcomes for children and young people in the City of London by championing and supporting delivery of the CYPP. The CPB brings together City Corporation officers, City of London Police, City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group, school representation, the voluntary sector, and representation for children and young people.

16. The theme for the first meeting was children and young people's mental health. This included discussion of the launch of phase 3 of the City and Hackney Local Transformation Plan for CAMHS - Phase 2 and 3 create an overarching whole-system approach through 18 comprehensive workstreams representing an additional investment of £1.2 million in children's mental health:

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| - Schools, Education, Training and Employment | - Youth Offending | - Wellbeing and Prevention |
| - Transitions | - Eating Disorders | - Physical Health and Wider Determinants |
| - Crisis and Health Based Places of Safety | - Perinatal and Best Start | - Quality and Outcomes |
| - Families (previously parenting) | - Safeguarding | - Digital and Tech |
| - CAMHS Pathways | - Early Intervention in Psychosis | - Workforce Development and Sustainability |
| - Communities | - Primary Care | - Demand Management and Flow |

17. The City Corporation, LB Hackney and the CCG are currently developing a new Joint Mental Health Strategy. The previous strategy (2015-18) advocated for prevention and early intervention, increasing mental health awareness in schools and leisure services, a 'think family' approach for families known to social services and enhanced CAMHS provision for the most vulnerable children.

Domestic and other abuse

18. A verbal update on work on domestic abuse and VAWG is on the SCP agenda.

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