

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Safer City Partnership	23 September 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Community and Children's Services Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Claire Giraud, Strategy Officer, 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 six areas: homelessness and rough sleeping strategy, drugs and alcohol, social isolation, sufficiency strategy, mental health and suicide prevention, and domestic abuse.

### Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-23

2. The *Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-23* was approved by the Community and Children's Services Committee on 12 July. The strategy and accompanying supplement are published on the City Corporation's website.
3. An action plan for the strategy is now being co-produced across corporation teams and partners. The action plan will be overseen by the Rough Sleeping Strategy Group and Will Norman.

### Drugs and Alcohol

4. A draft *Alcohol Strategy 2019-23* was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 April. The strategy brings together the work that the City of London Corporation and its partners undertake to reduce alcohol related harm and provides a framework for partnership work. It is currently out for consultation.

5. A business engagement session seeking insights on the City Corporation's draft alcohol strategy was delivered by Business Healthy in June, hosted at the offices of Mizuho Bank. The legal and construction sectors were represented and provided valuable feedback.
6. An online survey went live from June - September asking for feedback on the proposed outcomes, we will statements, and recommended partnership working. The results from the survey are currently being analysed and will be used, along with the engagement session outcomes, to help inform elements of the action plan.

7. The three outcomes that the strategy will deliver are:

- People are informed about the risks of alcohol misuse
- People are safe, and feel safe, in the Night Time Economy
- People have the support they need to access services.

The strategy will be supported by a delivery plan with clear and measurable actions and indicators for each outcome.

8. The first meeting of the Alcohol Partnership Group (APG) was held in August. The terms of reference were agreed and initial discussions were had around future work. Next steps involve drafting an action plan and talking with identified partners about the proposed outcomes and actions.

9. The contract for Square Mile Health, the City Corporations existing drug and alcohol prevention and treatment service delivered by Westminster Drug Project, is due to expire in September 2020 and the recommissioning of the new service has begun. Consultation with residents, providers, service users and wider stakeholders has been completed in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney, and the findings will be used to improve the future service.

10. Key themes emerging from the consultation were:

- The service should be easier to access;
- The service should be tailored and flexible (e.g., varied treatment offer and flexible appointment times);
- The importance of working in partnership (e.g. for effective referral pathways);
- Addressing the whole person – with a need for increased partnership working, co-locating services, prioritising quality and focussing on integration.

11. The procurement strategy and service model are in development. A new contract will be in place by January 2020 and the new service will begin in October 2020.

12. Below an overview of trends and performance of the Square Mile Health, the Corporations tobacco, alcohol and drug service:

There has been a notable increase in service users in the duration of the contract, from 6 in 2015 to a peak of 35 in 2017. Numbers plateaued in 2018, largely as a result of nondependent drinkers due to accessing and completing services

throughout 2017. This is consistent with national trends but appears to be increasing in 2019.

There is larger representation of male service users, and an upward trend in heterosexual users. LGBT represents 25% of service users, meaning that they are broadly underrepresented in treatment, a fact that the service aims to address in future.

There has been a trend shift in the drug taking habits of service users. In 2015 and early 2016 there was 17 service users, of which 23% were using heroin and 57% alcohol. By 2017 the number size and make up of service users changed, with 24 using alcohol and 5 heroin. The number of adults in drug treatment in 2017-18 was 19 with 12 newly presenting for treatment.

Service users are predominantly in regular employment with no housing problems. However, there is representation from across the board, including unemployed to seeking work, and those in retirement. Service user numbers are largely consistent for those with housing problems and an urgent need for housing, ranging between 3-6 at one time.

The growth in the number of service users is accounted for by people in work, stable housed and non-dependent drinkers, thus appear to be high functioning. Users are increasingly accessing satellite services through Neaman, which throughout the contract has improved in quality.

In summary, service users are generally and prominently:

- Aged between 25 and 64
- Male
- Heterosexual, although with some strong emerging LGBT representation
- Stably housed
- In regular employed or retired

### Autism Strategy

13. DCSS is currently developing a joint Autism strategy with the City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group and the London Borough of Hackney

14. Our vision is: There will be clear routes to access and pathways through diagnostic, assessment and therapeutic services for autistic people of all ages.

15. There will be specific focus on:

- Mental health
- Preparing for adulthood
- Transforming care
- Older adults
- Girls and women

16. We are hoping the joint strategy gets approval from the Autism Alliance Forum by the end of September 2019.

### Social isolation

17. The social Wellbeing strategy is nearing the end of its lifespan.

18. The action plan is moving forward very satisfactorily. Overall, 30 actions have commenced since the launch of the strategy, of which 14 are completed, 16 are in progress.

### **RAG Status Key and Summary**

Status of Actions		Compared to Feb 2018
Not started	5	-3
Major Problems	0	0
Minor Problems	0	-2
In Progress	16	-9
Completed	14	+11

19. Keys successes include:

- The community builders' program in the golden lane estates which links residents together,
- The Mansell street women group which reunited B.A.M.E elderly women,
- The digital inclusion project whereby 3 times a week in our libraries, elderly residents are given advice on how to use various technologies.

20. Work is now being undertaken to investigate integrating the social wellbeing priorities into the Health and Wellbeing strategy which is due to be renewed in 2020. It would make sense as positive work on social isolation fulfils the HWB strategic objectives.

### Sufficiency Strategy

21. The sufficiency strategy has been revised and new options are now available to our looked after children and care leavers.

22. Notable changes include the provision of new units in our Middlesex estate development.

23. In addition, more semi-independent living options have been investigated and a list of approved quality checked providers has been collated by the commissioning team.

24. It is important to note that there has been a significant increase in our looked after children numbers. We now have 25 looked after children, most of who are teenage males and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.

#### Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

25. Business Healthy collaborated with the GLA to deliver a half-day session at City Hall on 21 May, focusing on how employers can support the health and wellbeing of London's "hidden" workforce. It focused on the challenges that people working in manual roles, such as cleaning, catering, retail and security may face in terms of their health and wellbeing needs and access to healthcare support. The session included the sharing of best practice and attendees included representatives from the cleaning sector, retail and several commercial property services firms.
26. Another Suicide Prevention Awareness session was delivered to the business community in June, led by Business Healthy, the City of London Police and Samaritans and hosted by Commerzbank. The event engaged businesses not previously represented in the training and feedback showed 100% of attendees felt more confident in identifying and approaching someone who is at crisis point and who might be considering suicide, as a result of having attended. 90% said the session helped them to feel more confident in talking to their colleagues about suicide prevention. Another session is being delivered in October to mark World Mental Health Day and will be hosted by City law firm Macfarlanes.
27. Plans are in place to support local amplification of the national "Every Mind Matters" mental health campaign, which is being launched by Public Health England in early October. Targeted communications will be aimed at City residents, workers and learners. This will be supported by a City of London promotional video focused on the "five ways to wellbeing", which is currently in development.
28. A business engagement session seeking insights on the City Corporation's draft alcohol strategy was delivered by Business Healthy in June, hosted at the offices of Mizuho Bank. The legal and construction sectors were represented and provided valuable feedback.
29. Business Healthy is looking into the feasibility of delivering a webinar for local businesses on problem gambling in the autumn, focusing on the risk factors and drawing in a public health approach
30. The multi-agency Suicide Prevention Working Group continues to meet regularly to monitor the City of London's Suicide Prevention Action Plan, investigate further possible actions and share learning and good practice. Built in environment, Planning and DCCS are currently developing a guidance to architects and developers on how to mitigate suicide risks from high places. The guidance will accompany planning applications to encourage developers to consider and mitigate suicide risks.
31. Other areas of work the Suicide Prevention Working Group is developing include:
- Infra-red beams on bridges to prevent people from jumping;

- Suicide prevention training for City school staff and safeguarding/social care staff in October 2019 and in 2020
- Barbers talk training on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 as well as barbers mental health event in partnership with the Lions Barber Collective and the Barbers and Surgeon Livery Hall on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 to promote barbers having difficult conversations with their clients.

### Domestic abuse

32. DCCS and Community Safety Team is finalising the development of a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the City of London. The strategy will focus on three areas: prevention and early intervention; supporting people affected by VAWG; and accountability and rehabilitation of perpetrators. The strategy is expected to be implemented by the partners in this forum as informed by another report on the agenda.

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