

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE

Monday, 1 July 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Marianne Fredericks
Tijs Broeke
Randall Anderson (*in the Chair until
agenda item 4*)
Mary Durcan
Alderman & Sheriff Vincent Keaveny
Paul Kennedy

Natasha Lloyd-Owen
David MacKintosh
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Benjamin Murphy
Henrika Priest

In attendance:

Alderman Prem Goyal

Officers:

Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Sofia Sadiq	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Service
Will Norman	- Community and Children's Services
Simon Young	- Community and Children's Services
Marcus Roberts	- Community and Children's Services
Kirsty Lowe	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks
Sgt Cannell	- City of London Police
PC Foster	- City of London Police
Louise Said	- Chamberlains
Amy Kimbanji	- St Mungo's
Sophie Price	- Homeless Links

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ruby Sayed and Jason Pritchard.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2019 be approved subject to an amendment clarifying that, in the majority of cases, beggars were not rough sleeping in the City.

Matters arising

Members noted that a successful tenderer had been appointed in respect of alternative giving and this was expected to commence in July 2019. Members noted that the Chairman and officers would be meeting with the Director of Communications to discuss the media campaign, which would include social media as well as more traditional methods. Members asked to be kept informed of the campaign, and the location of the tap machines, in order to cascade the information within their wards. The Chairman was investigating the possibility of free advertising at a London mainline station.

Members also noted that a new British Transport Police (BTP) officer was in post at Liverpool Street. As the officer had given apologies to this meeting, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman would arrange to meet with him shortly. Members noted that there would be a BTP 'Week of Action' between 1st and 5th July, between 6 and 10 pm daily, and the team would be at the station and surrounding areas, seeking to engage with those rough sleeping, and directing them to the Outreach Team and Street Link. They would also be challenging beggars as a part of Operation Luscombe.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members elected a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order no 29.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member willing to serve, Marianne Fredericks be appointed as Chairman of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

On taking the Chair, the Chairman thanked retiring Members, Mark Wheatley and Dhruv Patel, for their work on the Sub Committee and welcomed new Members; Alderman and Sheriff Vincent Keaveny, Alderman Bronek Masojada, David Mackintosh (representing the Safer City Partnership); Natasha Lloyd Owen, William Pimlott and Jason Pritchard.

The Chairman thanked Members for their continued support, noting particularly the non-public report on today's agenda; '*New Interventions and Approaches for Rough Sleepers: Interim Report*', which would shape the Sub Committee's work over the coming year.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Members elected a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order no 30.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member willing to serve, Tijs Broeke be appointed as Chairman of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST**

Members received the Sub Committee's outstanding actions list and noted those items which had either been, or would be, discharged on this and future agendas.

7. **PRESENTATION: ST MUNGO'S RECOVERY COLLEGE**

Members received a presentation from St Mungo's Recovery College and during the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- The officer explained that success levels could be mapped through to sustained employment. Members asked if they could see the metrics; which covered resilience, wellbeing, mental health and employability.
- St Mungo's worked pro-actively with perspective employees but were realistic about the numbers they could place. They also worked with clients to ensure a balance with the opportunities they were seeking.
- The client base at St Mungo's consisted of outreach worker referrals and, in some boroughs and if funding permitted, St Mungo's were able to present to the entire homeless pathway. Full information was available on St Mungo's website.
- Officers were creative in their key working practices and accepted that, for some resistant clients, engagement would always be challenging. St Mungo's continually refined their offers, noting that some clients' previous experiences of training and learning might have been negative.
- If a client was referred by an Outreach Worker, there would be no cost to a Local Authority. One vocational programme could cost between £150,000 and £200,000 pa and the majority of St Mungo's income came from fund raising. Members noted that St Mungo's had received CBT grant funding. The Homelessness Manager agreed to provide information as to the number of clients, who had been rough sleeping in the City, who had been referred onto the Programme. Members noted that clients falling back into rough sleeping could be far more expensive and St Mungo's would be working on producing comparable figures this year.

In concluding, the Chairman and Members thanked St Mungo's for an inspired presentation and their excellent work.

8. **ROUGH SLEEPING BUDGET 2019/20**

Members received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the 2019/20 Annual Revenue Budget for Rough Sleeping. Members asked if the next Budget report could provide more detail in respect of professional fees, consultancy and commissioned services.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **QUARTER 4 2018/19 ROUGH SLEEPING OUTCOMES REPORT**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the outcomes data for rough sleeping in the City of London for Quarter 4 2018/19. Members noted that all data in the report was derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN).

Members noted that the report acknowledged achievements and the longer term objectives in moving clients away from temporary into sustainable permanent accommodation. The officer explained that solutions were offered on a case-by-case basis, clients were not moved on until they were ready and all reconnections were followed up. Members noted that the Parkguard Officer had a good knowledge and relationships with the City's rough sleepers. Members were most frequently asked about long term rough sleepers and asked if the next report could have a more detailed breakdown within this sector.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2019-23**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented the City of London Corporation's draft Homelessness Strategy for 2019-23 for endorsement. Members noted that, as this report was still in draft, a couple of sections were due to be completed before the report was presented to the Community and Children's Services Committee on 12 July 2019. The final strategy would be scrutinised by an officer Strategy Group and reviewed annually by Members.

Members suggested that the following aspects of the Strategy could have more focus:

- Health improvements and accessibility to health care
- Partnership working
- Alternative giving
- Stronger communications with residents as to what the City was doing about homelessness and rough sleeping.

RESOLVED, that – subject to the comments above, the draft Strategy be recommended to the Community and Children's Services Committee.

11. **'NO FIRST NIGHT OUT' - HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROJECT**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the 'No First Night Out' Homelessness Prevention Project (NFNO), funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Member noted that NFNO provided a service to City and London Borough of Tower Hamlets residents at risk of homelessness, or currently rough sleeping, and assisted clients into secure accommodation. The Chairman asked for a report to a future meeting on the outcomes from the Homelessness Reduction Act, as it was a year since it had been implemented.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. WARDMOTE RESOLUTIONS AND RESPONSES: HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which addressed the four Wardmote Resolutions concerning rough sleeping.

The Town Clerk advised that all Wardmote responses would be fed back to the Aldermen. The Sheriff and Alderman in attendance explained that they faced some challenges in communicating to their wards, given GDPR restrictions when using Ward Lists. Members also felt that the gap between the Autumn Ward Newsletters and the Wardmotes in March was too long. The Aldermen offered to raise these matters at the General Purposes Court of Aldermen the following day.

The Town Clerk further advised that reports and minutes in respect of the responses to Wardmote Resolutions were very likely to be in public and therefore fully accessible on the relevant Committee's web pages. The Town Clerk would also circulate the slides and the notes from the Q&A session at the Breakfast Briefing on 18 June 2018, to all Members of the Court.

Finally, Members were reminded that the Sub Committee had commissioned an options appraisal into future provision for homelessness and rough sleeping in the City. The report would be presented to the Sub Committee in October 2019 and, given the very high level of interest in the last one, the Chairman suggested holding another All Member Breakfast Briefing in the Autumn, presenting the outcome from the options appraisal.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

13. OPERATION LUSCOMBE UPDATE

Members received a report of the Commissioner, City of London Police, which provided an update on Operation Luscombe, which had been running for 13 months and had produced good results in tackling prolific beggars in the City. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- There had been some comms issues with Community Impact Statements but this had been resolved. Members were encouraged to assist with statements wherever possible.
- There was a query as to whether the assessment hubs were going to be running fortnightly or monthly and officers agreed to clarify and advise the Chairman.
- Members were reminded to dial 101 to report beggars, or 999 for immediate threat or danger. Emails to Streetlink were not staffed 24/7.

- It was suggested that plain clothes officers should approach beggars as gangs were very vigilant to uniformed officers and tended to hide when they became aware of their presence.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

- Members noted that work was in hand in respect of tackling the modern slavery implications arising from begging.
- Members in Castle Baynard Ward had arranged to meet with officers in respect of a recent incident.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that – Under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 (Schedule 12 A) of the Local Government Act.

Item no
17

Paragraph no
3

17. NEW INTERVENTIONS AND APPROACHES FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS: INTERIM REPORT

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's services.

18. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WHILE THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no questions.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Julie Mayer 020 7 332 1410
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk