

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Friday, 7 May 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held at on Friday, 7 May 2021 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)
Mary Durcan (Deputy Chairman)
Jon Averbs, Markets & Consumer Protection Department
Gail Beer, Healthwatch
Matthew Bell, Policy and Resources Committee
Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services
Siobhan Harper, NHS City and Hackney CCG
Chief Superintendent Steve Heatley, City of London Police
Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health
Dr Gary Marlowe, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Ruby Sayed, Chairman of Community & Children's Services Committee
Jeremy Simons, Port Health and Environmental Services Committee

Officers:

Chris Lovitt	- Deputy Director of Public Health
Jayne Taylor	- London Borough of Hackney & City of London Corporation
Alexandra Vastano	- London Borough of Hackney & City of London Corporation
Donna Doherty-Kelly	- London Borough of Hackney & City of London Corporation
Claire Giraud	- London Borough of Hackney & City of London Corporation
Xenia Koumi	- Community & Children's Services
Ian Hughes	- Assistant Director (Highways)
Robin Whitehouse	- Pollution Team Manager
Lorenzo Conigliaro	- City of London Police
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Joyce Nash.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 19 February 2021 were approved.

4. **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Board received an oral update from Officers relating to issues and matters concerning the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were advised that infection rates were declining across London and the UK during the last few months. Members were reminded that despite small incident numbers in the City this appeared as a high incident rate due to the low resident population (4,100 based on 4 cases). The testing positivity rate remains positive at 1.2-3% and all under 40s have been offered an alternative to the AZ vaccination.

The Director of Public Health stressed the importance of encouraging everyone to undertake the vaccination through testimonials and good credible information, noting the wealth of information provided on the City Corporation's website as a good source.

5. **SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health providing an update on the suicide prevention action plan as well as on the number of attempted suicides and suicides occurring in the City of London following the establishment of the multi-agency suicide prevention group in 2017.

Members were informed that there had been a total of 10 suicides, 223 attempted suicides and 150 incidents between March 2019 to April 2021. Since the Suicide Action Plan stated, over 53 actions have commenced with 9 completed, 44 in progress and 12 new actions commenced since the last annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A Member advised that they had joined a street triage at night and praised the service hoping it would continue and grow further.

It was noted that infrared on bridges was considered a thorny issue and a Member queried how this was developing as they considered it to be a good, cost effective tool. Officers confirmed work concerning infrared beams were delayed due to the pandemic and other issues. A new strand of work was being explored on technologies to help vulnerable people in conjunction with the City of London Police (COLP).

In response to a question regarding taxi drivers, Members were advised that the City Corporation's Suicide Prevention Lead was having conversations with Thrive London as it was considered sensible to initiate training on a pan-London level.

Members remained concerned about tall buildings and the risk of suicide questioning if Planning were incorporating this risk with new tall builds. It was noted that guidance had been created on suicide risk mitigation at high spaces as part of City Corporation's long-term plan and would be attached to all building applications for buildings four stories or higher.

Responding to the Chairman's query regarding maintaining pressure to ensure the mental health street triage happens, Officers confirmed that the Public Health team had been given the go ahead to work with the Police to expand this service and with a budget whilst they evaluate impact and conduct a trial model. It was agreed there was a need to assess other mental health impacts to see if a trained officer should patrol with the COLP.

It was acknowledged that statistics around incidents of suicide on bridges and people visiting from outside the City gave a strong case that people travelled to do this. Officers confirmed Police rather than Coroner data was being used and reducing access to the means of suicide was a national priority.

A Member noted reference to definitions in the footnotes and asked if there was consensus on definitions and recommendations between all those signed up to the action plan. It was confirmed that whilst there were various sources, i.e. Police, Coroner, MET, health triage, Thrive London, BTP, all data was collected and analysed and a sub group created to ensure there was agreement by all Partners on definitions pan London. It was noted that Thrive London surveillance was also now live. Information was shared on a timely basis to work towards the same goal.

With regards to the Tidal Water Safety Forum, Members were advised that the onus was on landowners and the City Corporation had ownership on the walkways. Members enquired how often there were inspections of grab rails or improvements to safety on the river front. The Chairman added that they had mentioned training to premises along river on what to do at the recent Licensing Committee meeting and it was recommended that everyone be encouraged to take Thrive London's suicide free training including businesses and staff.

It was noted that the Cleansing Team were the "eyes and ears on the street" in the City and a Member enquired if they were trained. Officers confirmed there were regular talks with the team and scope for suicide prevention work was being built into the Department.

The Port Health and Public Protection Director confirmed that as part of the drowning prevention strategy, there was an action to map all areas for river safety equipment and ensure they are maintained. The Director actioned to talk to relevant individuals on this matter.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note the progress made on the Suicide Prevention Action Plan;
- Note the most recent data for suicide in the City of London;
- Approve recommendations for suicide prevention.

6. BUSINESS HEALTHY ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a joint report of the Director of the Department of Community & Children's Services and Director of Public Health providing an

update on the key achievements of the Business Healthy network from March 2020 to date, including progress against its strategic objectives and overall aim to provide support and signposting to employers in the City of London to help them improve the health and wellbeing of their workforce.

Members were advised that this work concerned the health and wellbeing of the Square Mile's workforce, and a key ongoing aim was to specifically raise awareness among employers of the health and wellbeing needs of the City's "hidden" workforce (routine, service and manual workers).

The Chair thanked Officers for the work of the programme and noted that health and wellbeing needs of City workers may be changed as a result of the pandemic, as well as resulting changes to working practices.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note the report and the role Business Healthy has played throughout the pandemic;
- Support the promotion of the Business Healthy network to employers within their wards and other key stakeholders.

7. DRAFT CITY OF LONDON CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY 2021-2030

The Board considered a report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection concerning the Draft City of London Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2021-2030. This strategy fulfils the City of London's statutory obligation to set out its wider approach to contaminated land and its inspection duties within the Square Mile and provides a more accessible, shorter and condensed strategy document.

Members were advised that the City Corporation had a statutory duty to ensure land within its boundaries were fit for use and have a plan in place which was reviewed every five years.

In response to a query concerning the resource implications of managing this work, officers confirmed most of work was already carried out and a database was in place to monitor potentially contaminated land in the City and log the data of historic land use. It was noted that different land uses had different risks associated to them, the risks needed to be assessed when change happened, with costs met within the existing budget. If something required significant detailed investigation and this came to the Corporation rather than the land owner, a request would come back to the Port Health Committee for sign off.

A Member noted that there was good data about the land risks in the City post war with the cost significantly going to land owner so the risk of the Corporation paying was low.

A Member queried if there was a check for contaminants in advance of when a site was developed. Officers confirmed this took place at the beginning of the

planning stage as part of assessing overall environmental concerns. All land owners were expected to fulfil functions of care and undertake investigations prior to any work commencing.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the proposal set out in paragraph 12 and 13 that the attached draft contaminated land inspection strategy (Appendix 1) undergoes external consultation until 25 July 2021, subject to any comments received at your meeting and a further report will be presented to your 27 September 2021 meeting to approve the subsequent new strategy.

8. HEALTHWATCH CITY OF LONDON PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a report by Healthwatch City of London providing an update on the progress against contractual targets and the work of Healthwatch City of London (HWCoL) with reference to Quarter Four, plus information on proposed activities during Quarter One of 2021/22.

Members were informed that the key issue over the last year included making sure there was sufficient information available regarding the regulations, vaccinations and testing available. Other focus areas included the availability of podiatry services, assisting the St Leonards Hospital Redevelopment, reinstatement and improvements to the Neaman Practice clinic appointment system, and working with primary care networks and residents on the NE London integrated system and governance. It was also noted that the new Petticoat trustee and already been having a great impact locally.

RECEIVED.

9. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

12. SECURE CITY PROGRAMME (SCP) - YEAR 2

The Board received a joint Gateway 2 Programme Proposal report of the Director of the Built Environment and Commissioner, City of London Police, concerning the Secure City Programme (SCP) – Year 2.

13. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was one item of AOB.

The meeting ended at 12.59 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
leanne.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk