

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE

Monday, 9 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Mary Durcan
Helen Fentimen
Paul Kennedy
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Henrika Priest
Jillian Reid

Ruby Sayed
Mark Wheatley
Eamonn Mullally
Anne Corbett
James Bromiley-Davis
Deputy John Absalom

Officers:

Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services Department
Jack Deeprise	- Community and Children's Services Department
Will Norman	- Community and Children's Services Department
Kirsty Lowe	- Community and Children's Services Department
Russel Pengelly	- City of London Police
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair of the Grand Committee took the Chair until the Chairman of this Sub Committee was elected.

Apologies were received from Joanna Abeyie.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Being the only Member declaring a willingness to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Marianne Fredericks be elected as Chair of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Committee for 2022/23.

The Chair welcomed new Members and thanked retiring Members, noting particularly the retiring Deputy Chair, Tijs Broeke, who would be standing down to concentrate on his role on the Police Authority Board and as Vice Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Being the only Member declaring a willingness to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Henrika Priest be elected as Deputy Chair of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Committee for 2022/23.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 be approved.

Matters arising:

- The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the presentation from Turning point after the meeting.
- The Chair advised that there would an informal briefing session after the next Committee, which would inform work on the new Strategy.

6. **ROUGH SLEEPING PERFORMANCE REPORTING CHANGES**

The Sub-committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which presented current issues with the data release schedule from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) being misaligned with the frequency of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee meetings.

Members noted the new framework to end rough sleeping by 2024 and the new performance indicators which would be introduced. Officers agreed to look at the scheduling of Committee reports, to coincide with the publication of Chain Data. The Chair advised that this matter would also be covered in the briefing session to Members referred to under matters arising (2) above.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. **ROUGH SLEEPING BULLETIN**

The Sub committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which provided an narrative to the Rough Sleeping Bulletin Data.

During the discussion on this item, the following points were noted:

- a) Members asked if the data on each of the rough sleeping cohorts could be broken down into the type of accommodation that clients move on to.
- b) The last report to the Committee analysed the sharp increase in Q3 of 2021. At this time, the City of London Corporation (CoLC) had a higher proportion of new rough sleepers than other London boroughs, resulting from a winding down of the pandemic responses and the removal of some of the options open to rough sleepers.
- c) The City has a large number of main line stations and transport hubs and Carter Lane had also closed in March. Some clients might be rough sleeping in other boroughs and come into the City to take advantage of the night-time economy.
- d) Residents and workers had been very complimentary of Operation Luscombe, which targets begging. There are anti-social behaviours

connected with begging, which culminates in the purchase of drugs and increased criminality in an area, and all agencies need to work in partnership. The Police actively share intelligence and work with the British Transport Police.

- e) Outreach workers often return to rough sleeping clients on many occasions; some are very entrenched in street activity and resist offers of assistance. There is no charge made for overnight accommodation.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

8. **TRANSITION PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an updated status report on the City of London Transition Programme

Members noted that they would receive more information on the new hostel provision in the briefing session following the next meeting. Members were also assured that there would be no delays and an overlap stage to ensure continuity of service. The officer explained that the service providers being explored are very credible and Providence Row are currently providing support at Carter Lane and the City's Express Hotel.

The officer advised that the Greenhouse GP Practice is unique in that the London Borough of Hackney runs a homelessness advice service alongside it; the clinical practitioners specialise in inclusive health provision and all of its patients have a housing need. Members also noted that the 'Doctors of the World' service had been very successful and been replaced by a collaboration between the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and 'Change Please', a third sector provider.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **CARTER LANE CITY ASSESSMENT SERVICE**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which provided an overview of the CoLC commissioned Carter Lane hostel, which opened in April 2020 as part of the CoL's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls from government to enact the 'Everyone In' approach.

The Chair thanked Providence Row for their outstanding help and support to clients. Officers agreed to provide more data in respect of the health outcomes for clients with health/learning difficulties/ disabilities.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **2023-2027 STRATEGY UPDATE**

Members noted that this would be covered in the briefing session to Members referred to under matters arising (2) above.

11. CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE

Members received an update of the Superintendent of the City of London Police and the following points were made:

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) Operation Luscombe had been relaunched to tackle begging, given the increasing footfall to the City and the rise of the night-time economy. However, numbers are low in comparison to 2018 when Luscombe was launched.
- b) Luscombe offers an alternative to criminalisation, via enforcement of the Vagrancy Act, as it provides clients with 4 offers of assistance before prosecution; ; i.e. – a green ticket, which is an informal invitation to attend a hub with drug workers, mental health nurses and the homelessness team in attendance. Further acts of begging result in an amber ticket and a red ticked which results in exclusion from the City for 3 months. The offer of assistance at the hub remains throughout the process. Further to issuing a red ticket, 3 more breaches will result in the Police applying for a criminal behaviour order, which is judicially mandated. At this stage, the Police can request any restrictions it feels appropriate; to minimise the impact on the City and its communities, and in the best interests of the client. Over the past few years there had been very few prosecutions.
- c) All officers at the City of London Police have received autism awareness training and rough sleeping clients are also invited to use the services available at the hubs. Rough sleepers might be moved on if they are causing an obstruction, but they are also referred to Street Link, which ensures that the Outreach Workers are aware of them.
- d) The City Corporation has achieved the correct balance in terms of provision of accommodation for rough sleepers, without generating voids.
- e) Despite some clients resisting offers of support, the Outreach Team are very persistent in trying to find the best offer to meet complex mental health and substance misuse issues.
- f) The Police have just completed a visual environmental audit and made recommendations in the Bishopsgate area in respect of re-siting bus stops, lighting, cctv coverage, environmental cleansing and unlet retail establishments.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

1. Other London Boroughs are likely to have a dedicated Cabinet Member responsible for rough sleeping and there is a designated GLA Officer Group. There are also regular task force meetings at senior government

level. Officers agreed to expand on this as part of the briefing session after the next meeting.

2. Members of the Sub Committee are welcome to go out on patrols with the Outreach Team or Park Guard but this is best done on a 1-1 basis.
3. There were some issues with the phone number provided with the Street Link App but the app was being redesigned. Members asked if Homeless Link could attend a future meeting in order to receive feedback and suggestions.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

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

There were no questions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Members noted that there would be a short window on consultation for repeal of the Vagrancy Act and this was being followed up by Remembrancers.

14. **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 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.

Item no	Para no
15-21	2&3

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 be approved.

16. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

In respect of Criminal Behaviour Orders, Members could attend the hearings but noted that they could be called at short notice. Furthermore, hearings were sometimes adjourned due to non-attendance or a request for further reports.

17. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**

There was no non-public update from the Police

18. **ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE - 2022-25 – VERBAL UPDATE**

Members noted that this funding was now in its 5th year and the City Corporation could now apply for multi-year funding, which was considerably more helpful to longer term planning. The latest bid had been submitted in February and officers were optimistic following recent communications with the Department of Levelling Up. Members would receive a more detailed update at the next meeting, by which time the funding should have been agreed.

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

There were no non-public questions.

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

There was no other business.

21. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022 be approved.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

Chair

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