

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 30 November 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee held at
Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 30 November 2022 at
11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Boden (Chairman)
David Sales (Deputy Chairman)
Andrew Mayer
Steve Stevenson

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Kate Bygrave	- Community and Children's Services Department
Adi Cooper	- Chairman of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB)
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services Department
Kehinde Haastrup-Olagunju jnr	- Town Clerk's Department
Barbara Hamilton	- Community and Children's Services Department
Chris Lovitt	- Community and Children's Services Department
Ian Tweedie	- Community and Children's Services Department
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Note of inquorate meeting - 27 September 2022

The note of the inquorate meeting on 27 September 2022 was noted.

3.2 Minutes - 21 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022 were approved as a correct record.

4. **WORKPLAN**

Members reviewed the Committee's workplan for the meetings in 2023.

RESOLVED, that – the workplan be approved.

5. **ANNUAL TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk relative to the annual review of the Committee's terms of reference.

Members noted the proposal from officers to include a reference to the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 in the terms of reference.

RESOLVED, that – the suggested revisions to the terms of reference be endorsed.

6. **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND AUTISM**

Members received presentations from Officers in the Department for Community and Children's Services relative to employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism.

The following points were noted:

- Following the signing of an agreement with the National Development Team for Inclusion and the Department of Education, officers from the Department for Community and Children's Services would be establishing local employment forums to secure work placement and supported internship opportunities for young people with educational needs.
- Officers have secured a grant of £50,000 to run a programme until the end of March 2023 with the aim of targeting up to ten young people. This grant also offers the chance for additional funding if there is an increase in the number of learners requiring support.
- The City Corporation, as a body exercising local authority functions, needed to ensure that the forums were in place, and that employers had knowledge of them, and access to them. Employers also needed to have detailed information as to the expectations of the employer, the young person and the local authority.
- The key element was to have active membership in the forums, and to have active involvement from the employers.
- The City Corporation had had to supply anticipated numbers of 10-12 participants as part of the grant application, but hoped numbers would rise to around 15-20. Officers wanted to ensure they had the time and resource to give participants as much as support as possible.
- There were 12 adults with learning disabilities known to the Adult Social Care team, aged between 29-60. Support schemes had been impacted by the pandemic, and the team were currently working restarting these.

The Chairman informed Members that he had requested for this topic to be included on the agenda as it was a problem across the country, and he wanted to congratulate officers on the work that was being done. He felt that this area was a real opportunity for the City. The Square Mile had the greatest concentration of employers in the country, and there was great scope for these employers to employ those with learning difficulties, for the potential benefit of both. He referred to studies that have been done on people with learning disabilities in employment, which showed that those with disabilities remain in jobs longer and provide a greater mutual advantage. He was concerned that there was not currently a coordinated attempt to develop these opportunities, and said that these concerns were shared with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. The Chairman said that he planned to ask a question of the Policy Chairman at the meeting of the Court of Common Council in January on this subject.

A Member asked if there was any information on what employers already do in this area, as they were concerned about the risks of an untargeted campaign. The Chairman said that the first place the city Corporation should begin with itself. The Chairman and officers both noted that there was a challenge in getting the requisite data, as many employees were wary of disclosing any disabilities, an issue which was not unique to the City Corporation.

RESOLVED, that – the presentations be received and their contents noted.

7. CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Members received a report of the Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board, relative to that Board's Annual Report for 2021/22.

The Chairman commented that while the report covered both the City and Hackney, it was mainly focused on the latter. He asked if there were any supplementary processes for extra oversight of vulnerable individuals in the City of London population. Officers replied that the City and Hackney Safeguarding Board had a specific sub-board for the City of London, involving all the partner agencies.

The Chairman while the report included information on supporting the victims of modern slavery, he would also like to see more work done on the identification of cases. In reply, officers said that this was a priority for 2022/23. The Chairman requested that a follow-up on this work be brought to the Committee in twelve months' time.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

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

There were no questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Member representing City Healthwatch expressed his concerns regarding the concept of virtual wards. They approved of the idea but felt that it was the worst possible time for the initiative to be deployed. They asked if it was planned to use virtual wards in the City. Officers replied that City and Hackney were currently considering the use of virtual wards. The Chairman requested that an update on the issue of virtual wards be brought to the Committee at its meeting in May 2023. Officers suggested that it might also be beneficial to include information on anticipatory care in this report.

The meeting ended at 12.13 pm

Chairman

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