

# **SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 2 July 2024**

**Minutes of the meeting held at the Guildhall EC2 at 2.00 pm**

## **Members:**

Helen Fentimen (Deputy Chair – *in the Chair*)  
Mary Durcan  
Jacqui Webster  
Ceri Wilkins

## **Officers:**

Chris Pelham	- Assistant Director - People, Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	- Community and Children's Services
Rachel Talmage	- Community and Children's Services
Ria Lane	- Community and Children's Services
Laura Demetriades	- Community and Children's Services
Mandy Horsburgh	- City of London Police
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Ruby Sayed (Chair), \*Joanna Abeyie, Anne Corbett\*, Eamonn Mullally and Philip Woodhouse.

*\*Members joining remotely.*

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

There were no declarations.

Before commencing the business on the agenda Members and Officers said thank you and farewell to the Committee Clerk, Julie Mayer who would soon be retiring.

## **3. MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be approved.

## **Matters arising**

- The Independent Chair of the Achieving Excellence Board would be running a 1 hour training session for Members in October 2024, to provide insight into Safeguarding and Scrutiny. The Chair suggested that a face-to-face session would be more interactive.

- A report on the Virtual School would be presented to a future meeting of the Community and Children's Services Committee, as the agenda for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 is very full.

4. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE SELF-EVALUATION SIX-MONTH REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services which provided an update on the Children and Families Service self-evaluation (SEF) 2022–23.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Clubs need 8-9 participants and there had been successful half term/summer term activities targeted at lower income families.
- The close links with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), noting that staff had been learning BSL and Maketon.
- Members would be fully briefed with the new SEF ahead of the next Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting later in 2024.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY HELP SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-25**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which provided the fully refreshed Service Development Plan for 2024–25 and set out the overarching programme of work for the Children's Social Care and Early Help Service. The Deputy Chair noted that the Plan would have been subject to external scrutiny before being presented to the Sub Committee.

The Chair of the EDI Committee, also a Member of this Sub Committee, asked for the EDI Annual Report to be presented to the EDI Committee, which would need to include an update on the impact of 'City of London Corporation Care Leaver' as a Protected Characteristic.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **MULTI AGENCY CHILD EXPLOITATION UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which outlined the work of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel over 2023/24.

During the discussion, the following points were noted.

- The number of children contemplating suicide on bridges would be provided to Members after the meeting, noting that these would be non-City of London Corporation (CoLC) resident children. Businesses around

the bridges are trained in responsiveness and there is ongoing support in home boroughs.

- Public Projection Notices (PPNs) can provide some data about information sharing. There is productive partnership working across neighbouring boroughs; i.e. - 'Operation Makesafe', with the hotel industry. Information is also shared with Schools in respect of domestic abuse incidents. Front line Police Officers are upskilled in terms of identifying vulnerability and completing PPNs, and the Police representative had high confidence in this work. There are 6-monthly scrutiny sessions looking at shared PPNs; in March, 80% were for children outside the City of London.
- It can be difficult to measure relationship building, which is a strong core of the work in this field, but evidence can be found in early safeguarding interventions and the prevention of formal action. The Police representative advised that there are number of areas which can be tested; i.e. the Joint Targeting Inspections, which are supported by Ofsted, together with HMIC and FRS inspections.
- The true definition of anti-social behaviour in terms of legislation and the distinction with play was considered. A Member agreed to raise this at the Sports Strategy Board in terms of the availability of CIL funding for outside play areas.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

**7. INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services which provided an overview of the Independent Reviewing service in the City of London covered in the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report for 2023–2024. Good news re 100% dental checks

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

**8. QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Quality Assurance of the operational Children's Social Care and Early Help Service.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

**9. CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services which updated Members on service performance across the Children and Families Service.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **ADULTS' PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services, which updated Members on safeguarding performance across the Adult Social Care Service during 2023/24.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. **LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER (LADO) ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee Received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services in respect of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role. The Annual Report outlined the activity of the LADO from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the impact on safety for children, and effect on learning for individuals and organisations. Members noted that there is a general LADO Overview every 6 months.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

12. **QUESTIONS OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Assistant Director advised of a Learning Review, undertaken by the Kent County Safeguarding Children Partnership, which had focused on the practice involved in a child being removed from a City of London Corporation care leaver, who was living in Kent with their partner and baby. The review noted that the findings of non-accidental injury, which had resulted in the removal of the baby, were not substantiated and reversed, with the baby returned to its parents, and the conclusion of care proceeding and police involvement. The baby is doing well back in the care of the parents. Members noted that the Executive Summary is now publicly available on Kent County Council's Website and would be circulated to Members of the Sub Committee. The report noted that the care leaver had publicly commended the exemplary support of the City of London Corporation Social Workers. The Chair agreed that the report could be circulated outside of the Sub Committee meetings and Members would be able to raise any questions at the next meeting.

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 I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item	Paragraph
15 - 19	1 and 2

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be approved.

## **Matters arising**

There was one matter arising.

16. **NON PUBLIC APPENDICES**

Members noted the non-public appendices:

18. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There was one question.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB-COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items.

**The meeting closed at 2.55 pm**

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Chairman

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