

## COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 30 April 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 30 April 2025 at 2.00 pm

### Present

#### Members:

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie  
Matthew Bell  
Leyla Boulton  
Simon Burrows  
Lesley Cole  
Deputy Anne Corbett  
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP  
(Chairman)  
Sarah Gillinson  
Steve Goodman OBE  
Sandra Jenner  
Shravan Joshi MBE  
Lara Jørgensen

Helen Ladele  
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP  
Alderman Christopher Makin  
Sophia Mooney  
Leyla Ostovar  
Deputy Nighat Qureishi  
Beverley Ryan  
Sushil Saluja  
Stuart Thompson  
Deputy James Thomson CBE  
Deputy Ceri Wilkins  
Philip Woodhouse

### Online

#### Members:

Dawn Frampton  
Jason Pritchard

#### Officers:

Deborah Bell	- Community & Children's Services Department
Peta Caine	- Community & Children's Services Department
Kevin Colville	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Liane Coopey	- Community & Children's Services Department
Hannah Dobbin	- Community & Children's Services Department
David Downing	- Community & Children's Services Department
Dean Elsworth	- Community & Children's Services Department
Judith Finlay	- Executive Director, Community & Children's Services
Philippe Greaves	- Community & Children's Services Department
Michael Gwyther-Jones	- Community & Children's Services Department
Kirstie Hilton	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	- Community & Children's Services Department
Michael Kettle	- Chamberlain's Department
Greg Knight	- Community & Children's Services Department
Rachel Levy	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Lovitt	- Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Lowman	- Community & Children's Services Department

Scott Myers	- City Surveyors
Will Norman	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services Department
Debby Rigby	- Community & Children's Services Department
Alice Rogers	- Community & Children's Services Department
Dan Sanders	- Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Spicer	- Community & Children's Services Department
Blair Stringman	- City Surveyor's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department
Ellie Ward	- Communications & External Affairs
	- Community & Children's Services Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received by Alderman Levene, Deputy Christopher Hayward, Deputy John Fletcher, Munsur Ali, Dawn Frampton, Jason Pritchard, Mark Wheatley and David Williams.

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

There was one declaration from Sandra Jenner who declared that in relation to information pertaining to CQC, their sister has a senior role at the organisation.

3. **\*ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning the Order of the Court of Common Council.

**RESOLVED** – That, the Order be received.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Committee elected a Chair in accordance with Standing Order 28.

**RESOLVED** – That, Helen Fentiman OBE JP, being the only Member indicating their willingness to serve, was elected Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee for the Civic Year 2025/26.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

The Committee elected a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order 29.

**RESOLVED** – That, Steve Goodman OBE, being the only Member indicating their willingness to serve, was elected Deputy Chair for the Civic Year 2025/26.

6. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That, the public and non-public summary of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2025 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the spelling of Beverley Ryan's name on pages 7 and 8.

7. **\*PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the outstanding actions report.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

8. **\*REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETING UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning a report of action taken in accordance with urgency procedures.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

9. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES, PORTFOLIOS AND ALLOCATED MEMBERS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning appointments to various sub-committees and other appointments.

The Chair noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board appointment would be brought back to the next meeting.

Members also noted that the appointment of Members to the various Housing Estates would be discussed at the next meeting of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee and thereafter, confirmed at the next meeting of the Community and Children's Services Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That Members,

- a) Agree the composition and Terms of Reference of The Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee and Allocated Members to the City's Housing Estates as set out in the report and Appendix 1:
  - Charles Edward Lord
  - Deputy John Fletcher
  - Deputy James Thomson
  - Sandra Jenner
  - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
  - Anne Corbett
  - Philip Woodhouse
  - Sarah Gillinson
  - Leyla Boulton
- b) Agree the composition and Terms of Reference of The Safeguarding & Special Educational Needs Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 2:
  - Sushil Saluja
  - Deputy Ceri Wilkins
  - Sophia Mooney
  - Deputy Anne Corbett
  - Stuart Thompson
  - Vacancy
  - i. Members unanimously agreed to advertise the remaining vacancy to the wider Court of Common Council to co-opt a Member.
- c) Agree the composition and Terms of Reference of The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee as set out in Appendix 3:

- Helen Ladele
  - Shravan Joshi
  - Dawn Frampton
  - Sophia Mooney
  - Sarah Gillinson
  - Mark Wheatley
- d) In accordance with Standing Order 26 (2), elect the following Members as Chair's for the following Sub-Committees for the Civic Year 2025/25:
- i. Steve Goodman OBE - Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee
  - ii. Helen Fentimen OBE JP - Safeguarding & Special Educational Needs Sub-Committee
  - iii. Mark Wheatley - Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee
- e) Appoint The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, together with three Deputies, to the Integrated Care Sub Committee (of the City and Hackney Place-based Partnership) set out in Appendix 4 & 6:
- Sarah Gillinson
  - Vacancy
  - Vacancy
- f) Appoint the following Members to the various Lead Portfolios set out in Appendix5:
- i. Vacancy – Adult and Children Safeguarding
  - ii. Deputy Ceri Wilkins – Young People
  - iii. Deputy Anne Corbett
- g) Appoint Helen Fentimen OBE JP to The Education Board
- h) Appoint Philip Woodhouse to The Projects & Procurement Sub-Committee
- i) Appoint Deputy Anne Corbett to the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
- j) Appoint The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

#### 10. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY 2025-29**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services concerning the City of London Corporation's draft Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-29.

Officers highlighted that the strategy was supported by a self-evaluation framework included in the information pack, which provides a comprehensive overview of adult social care services. The strategy complements other existing strategies on unpaid carers, SEND, and homelessness, and is built around a

strengths-based, person-centred approach. It emphasises workforce development, strong partnerships with health and community sectors, and ensuring a diverse range of care options. Members were also pointed to the action plan for Year 1 and noted the importance of ongoing service development plans. Officers acknowledged the limited response to the public consultation but emphasised alternative engagement methods, such as a Healthwatch patient panel and a new advisory group launching soon.

A Member raised concerns about the placement of 24 residents in residential care, particularly the 12 of working age. They asked for details on their locations, opportunities for work or volunteering, and plans to reintegrate them into the community. In response, Officers explained that placements are often made near family or in preferred locations like coastal areas. They noted that opportunities for working-age individuals depend on individual assessments and that some are under Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, which restrict movement for safety reasons.

A further question was asked about the education and training for staff, particularly around mental health and anti-racism. Officers responded that the City of London Corporation has a dedicated Principal Social Worker who leads development initiatives, including secondments with other councils and legal training through Edge Training. They confirmed that anti-racist practice standards are in place and that mental health services are commissioned through the East London Foundation Trust. The City provides flexible support for individuals with mental health needs, including direct payments and tailored care arrangements.

A Member raised the issue of how major regeneration projects, such as those at Golden Lane Estate, might impact vulnerable adults. The Executive Director of Community and Children's Services assured Members that joint planning between housing and social care teams is underway to ensure appropriate support for affected residents.

A Member asked whether the strategy was resilient enough to handle the projected increase in demand, particularly among those over 65. Officers explained that while the older population is growing, the City's high life expectancy and current service capacity—such as home care and reablement—are sufficient to meet anticipated needs. The strategy is supported by a market sustainability plan that is regularly reviewed.

Members praised the strategy's values and rigour and asked about the voluntary sector's capacity to support the strategy. Officers acknowledged the sector's importance and noted funding sources like the Community Infrastructure Levy and Better Care Fund. They also mentioned a recent grant to Hackney CVS to help build resilience in the voluntary sector. Additionally, Officers clarified that while the market sustainability plan focuses on placements, it does not directly assess voluntary sector capacity.

A Member asked what was new in the strategy, noting that many elements seemed standard. Officers responded that while many approaches, such as the

strengths-based model, are not new, the strategy reflects a commitment to continuous improvement and adaptation to evolving case law and safeguarding reviews.

The Chair concluded by emphasising the strategy's importance and highlighted the significance of integrated health and care arrangements with Hackney and the potential impact of NHS changes. They also encouraged the inclusion of more specific, measurable performance indicators in future reports.

**RESOLVED** – That Members, approve the draft Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-29 set out in the revised Appendix 1 in the late supplementary pack of the report.

11. **\*ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELF-EVALUATION FRAMEWORK 2024**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services concerning the Adult Social Care Self-Evaluation Framework (SEF) 2024.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

12. **\*STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) & THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE (ASC)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services concerning the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and The Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC).

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

13. **\*GOLDEN LANE LEISURE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services concerning a progress update on the refurbishment of Golden Lane Leisure Centre.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

14. **\*GOLDEN LANE ESTATE UPDATE BRIEFING - MAJOR WORKS AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services concerning an update on the Golden Lane Estate, Major Works and Associated Issues.

Officers explained that the report aims to provide a comprehensive background on the Golden Lane estate and the current challenges, as it represents a significant area of ongoing work. They specifically requested attention be drawn to the winter measures section, which acknowledges the impact of project delays on both tenants and leaseholders. In response, it was noted that the team is collaborating with the Residents' Association to develop a winter measures plan to be implemented before the upcoming winter. This initiative builds on previous efforts and is supported by additional resources. A follow-up report with proposals for decision will be presented at the June committee meeting, serving as an early heads-up for Members.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

**15. UPDATES FROM SUB COMMITTEES, ALLOCATED MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

The Committee received an update concerning Middlesex Street.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

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

A question was raised by a Member referencing concerns brought to them by the Vicar of the Church on the Avondale Estate in Southwark. The issue involved a basketball court on the estate that has remained locked since the COVID pandemic, with tree roots now pushing up the concrete—cited as the reason for its continued closure. The Member emphasised the importance of reopening the court for the children in the area and noted they had contacted the Executive Director, and Chair during the recess period. In response, it was confirmed that Officers would be visiting the Estate the following week, with this matter high on their agenda. If reopening the current court proves unfeasible, officers committed to identifying an alternative, equally accessible space for young people.

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

**18. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That, under Section 100A(4) 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 I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

**19. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

**20. \*NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the non-public outstanding actions report.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

**21. \*REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETING UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES**

The Committee received a report of action taken in accordance with urgency procedures.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

**22. GOLDEN LANE ESTATE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (PHASE 1: CRESCENT HOUSE)**

The Committee considered a report of Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to Phase 1 of major Works Investment Programme across the entire Golden Lane Estate.

23. **GOLDEN LANE ESTATE INVESTMENT PORGRAMME (PHASE 2: ALL BLOCKS EXCLUDING CRESCENT HOUSE)**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to Phase 2 of major Works Investment Programme across the entire Golden Lane Estate.

24. **COLLINSON COURT NEW HOMES**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to a planning process to develop a design for new homes at Collinson Court.

25. **YORK WAY ESTATE OFFICE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to redevelopment of the York Way Estate.

26. **GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE INVESTMENT WORKS – WINDOW REPAIR/REFURBISHMENT, ADDITIONAL VENTILATION, INTERNAL COMMUNAL REDECORATIONS, FIRE SAFETY AND ELECTRICAL COMPLIANCE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to repair and refurbishment works at Great Arthur House.

27. **BLACK RAVEN COURT - CITY OF LONDON PRIMARY ACADEMY ISLINGTON (COLPAI)**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to ensuring regulatory compliance of building integrity and longevity and Black Raven Court.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

30. **PROPOSED ORGANISATIONAL RESTRUCTURE OF THE MAJOR WORKS TEAM (HRA), DCCS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services related to a proposed organisational restructure of the Major Works Team.

**The meeting ended at 3.43 pm**



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Chairman

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