

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Monday, 30 June 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Billy Dove
Professor John Lumley
Deputy Joyce Nash

Dhruv Patel
Elizabeth Rogula

Officers:

Philippa Sewell	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	Director of Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	Community & Children's Services
Sarah Greenwood	Community & Children's Services
Marion Willicome-Lang	Community & Children's Services
Peter Corden-Dilley	Community & Children's Services

Maureen Howie	Virtual School Head
Marcia Smikle	Homerton Hospital

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members were invited to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29; eligibility was extended to include Ex-Officio Members as no written expressions of interest for the position had been received. The Chairman would also be the lead Member for Safeguarding Children. A list of Members eligible to stand was read out and Dhruv Patel, being the only Member indicating his willingness to serve, was declared to have been elected for the ensuing year.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Members were invited to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30; eligibility was extended to include Ex-Officio Members as no written expressions of interest for the position had been received. A list of Members eligible to stand was read out and Deputy Billy Dove, being the only Member indicating his willingness to serve, was declared to have been elected for the ensuing year.

The Chairman welcomed Deputy Joyce Nash as a new Member of the Sub Committee, and thanked the outgoing Members, Angela Starling and Deputy John Bennett.

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RESOLVED – That the terms of reference, as agreed at the 9 May 2014 meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee, be noted.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 5 February 2014 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Safeguarding Adults Audit November 2013

Members noted that safeguarding was now on the Corporate Risk Register, and the Corporate Safeguarding Policy would come before this Sub Committee at a future meeting before going to Audit and Risk Management Committee.

City Youth Participation Strategy

Members noted that the Children's Executive Board would receive updates on the City Youth Participation Strategy, and were reminded of upcoming training sessions which had been circulated electronically.

7. **UPDATE ON OFSTED INSPECTION AND IMPROVEMENT PLANNING, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services which provided an update on the progress being made to prepare for the Ofsted inspection and to ensure services provided to Children In Need, Looked After Children and Care Leavers were improving in line with the new Ofsted single inspection framework.

In response to Members' questions, officers reported that the Ofsted guidance did not ask for any services or practices that were not already being performed by the Corporation, but was prescriptive about evidence.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. **SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services about the progress of the Service Improvement Action Plan which encompassed recommendations from case file audits, the Strengths-based Learning Review from January 2014, and the grade descriptors from the new inspection framework. Members noted that all aspects of Children's Social Care were considered, including the Children and Families Team, Leadership and Management and the Local Authorities Designated Officer role, and the plan would be monitored through the Children's Executive Board, Inspection Planning Meetings and City Safeguarding Sub-Group.

In response to a Member's question, officers reported that there was an expectation for staff to retain and develop skills to deal with issues that

occurred infrequently in the City. Despite being a challenge, Members noted that this was being met through shadowing, workforce development, or working with officers in other Local Authorities.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. **ADULTS SAFEGUARDING SELF-ASSESSMENT**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services presenting an overview of the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Audit Tool. Members noted that this was particularly pertinent in light of the political focus that the Care Act would create by placing the Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing. Officers advised that the Adult Social Care service met 18 of the 22 requirements (green), with 4 assessed as requiring additional action (amber) and no reds identified.

Members discussed the report, noting the importance of multi-agency discussions to ensure a seamless service for residents. In response to a Member's question, officers undertook to investigate how many Acts of Legislation affected the Safeguarding service overall.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) The Assistant Director of People investigate how many Acts of Legislation affected the Safeguarding service overall; and
- (b) The report be noted.

10. **SAFEGUARDING POLICY, AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services which gave an overview of the Safeguarding Policy's awareness raising campaign, 'Notice the Signs'. The campaign was targeted at two distinct audiences: City of London employees (including Members and partner agencies) and City of London residents. Officers reported that 7 Safeguarding Champions had been appointed throughout the Corporation to improve general knowledge, understanding and awareness of the City of London Corporation's (and its employees') role in safeguarding children and adults at risk, and the campaign would raise awareness among local residents of what constitutes abuse and provide information and advice to ensure that they know what to do if concerned.

Officers reported that the Corporation rarely received community referrals of safeguarding concerns, which was highly unusual, and it was hoped the campaign would address this. In response to Members' queries, officers reported that officers worked alongside charities, and that safeguarding procedures were in place to facilitate shared responsibility for third party referrals. Members were advised that communications and support available was evident to all concerned.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) Posters for the campaign and a covering letter be placed in Members' pigeonholes to highlight their role as Corporate Parents;

- (b) The Assistant Director of People include Members with specific safeguarding leads; and
- (c) The campaign be included in ward newsletters in November 2014.

11. QUESTIONS OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In response to a Member's query, officers reported that the annual reception for the City's Looked After Children would take place in October/November 2014 and the date would be circulated to Members as soon as it was confirmed. In response to a follow up query, Officers undertook to arrange a Member visit to some of the vulnerable elderly tenants being housed outside the City.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) The date for the annual reception for the City's Looked After Children be circulated to Members once confirmed; and
- (b) A Member visit to vulnerable elderly tenants being housed outside the City be arranged.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

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

Item	Paragraph
14	3
15-18	2
19-20	-

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2014 be approved as a correct record.

15. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS OF CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

16. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2013/14

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

17. QUARTER THREE AND QUARTER FOUR ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORTS PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OUTCOMES

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

18. CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR QUARTERS THREE AND FOUR FOR 2013/14

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

19. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no non-public questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm

Chairman

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