

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 December 2015

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

Present

Members:

Gareth Moore (Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Elizabeth Rogula (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Joyce Nash
Randall Anderson	Dhruv Patel
Marianne Fredericks	

Officers:

Philippa Sewell	Town Clerk's Department
Chris Pelham	Community and Children's Services
Marion Willicome-Lang	Community and Children's Services
Moushumi Bhadra	Community and Children's Services
Peter Corden-Dilley	Department of Community and Children's Services
Elizabeth Malton	Department of Community and Children's Services
Rose de Paeztron	Community and Children's Services
Lorraine Burke	Community and Children's Services
Dr Adi Cooper	City & Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board
Rory McCallum	City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Board
Lynda Rowlinson	Whittington Health

Two guests from the Children in Care Council

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 of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

The Deputy Chairman advised that an informal workshop would be held in the New Year to provide additional training and for Members and officers to discuss report formats.

4. **CITY OF LONDON SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Members had provided officers with several questions prior to the meeting. The summaries of these, and those questions asked at the meeting, are presented in italics under each corresponding item.

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services regarding the City of London Safeguarding Policy, which had been renewed and brought in-line with new legislation and guidance. Members discussed the report and made some suggestions to clarify wording and terms used in the Policy.

How is this policy shared with staff, and how will the Sub Committee know that the implementation of the Policy is effective?

Officers advised that Service Managers in Community and Children's Services ran regular Safeguarding Forums with champions, and there were safeguarding leads in all departments to cascade key information to staff. Human Resources were aware of staff involvement, and safeguarding objectives were being used in the appraisal process. With regard to Members' awareness, it was agreed that this be discussed at the informal workshop being held in the New Year.

What is the difference between Safeguarding Champions and Safeguarding Leads?

Officers advised that Safeguarding Leads were formal roles, whereas Champions were volunteers liaising between staff in their team and the Safeguarding Leads.

RESOLVED – That the Policy be approved, subject to the inclusion of Members' comments.

5. **THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014/15 CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD**

The Sub Committee welcomed Dr Adi Cooper, Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board, who presented the Board's annual report for 2014/15.

Dr Cooper reported that this year was the first time safeguarding adults had been put on a statutory footing, and key responsibilities had been set out for Boards. Members noted the City and Hackney Board already met these, owing to Dr Cooper and her predecessor Fran Pearson. Members noted this report focussed on the lessons learned over the past year, and ensuring this learning is embedded in practice. The strategy for 2015-2020 was currently being consulted on, and Members noted it was this that future annual reports would measure performance against.

How does the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board ensure that the training programme for City-based staff is effective?

Dr Cooper advised that training and development opportunities were offered to all staff, as well as to the voluntary sector and partner agencies. The Board was currently mapping the training being offered, the intention was for a mechanism to be put in place to assess whether training needs were being met, before outcomes could be evaluated.

Given next year's Annual Report will be the first since the Safeguarding Adults Boards became statutory, what do you envisage the report would be focussing on?

Dr Cooper advised that there were specific areas officers would be asked to pursue and develop, but these were not unique to the City, being influenced by new areas included in the Care Act. Dr Cooper took the opportunity to congratulate officers on the awareness-raising work carried out over the past year.

Does the Winterbourne Concordat apply to the City?

Officers advised that, although no residents in the City met the criteria of the Winterbourne review, the outcomes of that review had been applied to the service in general. Officers also advised that this would be included in future annual reports, and that they would also be clearer in drawing out City-specific information.

How is the gap between Children's and Adults' services managed?

Dr Cooper reported that this was an issue that had come about as a result of legislative changes over the past few years, and was on the national agenda. Members noted that the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board was involved with the development of national policy and guidance and, although there was no strategic 'quick fix', the gap could be mitigated on an operational basis. Officers agreed, advising that, at the City, the same officers oversaw both areas and, as such, the structural arrangements in place significantly limited the risk of gaps occurring in the transition process between children and adults services.

Does the City have adequate staffing levels to manage the potentially high levels of mental health care needed for older people?

Officers confirmed that issues concerning capacity and old age had recently come to the forefront, with a lot of nervousness about the continuation of care in light of cuts to budgets nationally, but advised that there were four fully qualified social workers who could assess all adults in the City with mental health needs, in addition to a locum social worker.

The Chairman thanked Dr Adi Cooper for her presentation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. **THE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

The Sub Committee welcomed Senior Professional Advisor Rory McCallum on behalf of Jim Gamble, Independent Chair of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, who presented the Board's annual report for 2014/15.

Mr McCallum reported that this was a statutory report offering a transparent assessment of performance. The Director of Community & Children's Services at the City of London Corporation had initiated a review of the services offered, which had resulted in worthwhile areas of work for the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board in terms of sharpening its focus. The intention was to make the document as accessible as possible, and included case studies and examples to evidence impact. Members noted that previous reports had been remiss in drawing out City-specific issues, which had been addressed in this year's report.

How is the Board going to use its Lay Members to add value to the work of safeguarding?

Mr McCallum advised that the Lay Members' role was to build on public engagement and awareness, facilitating consistent communication between residents and the Board. This was carried out via a defined work plan (based on existing work in Hackney) which linked with community partnerships, voluntary organisations, and youth groups.

Is the Board satisfied with City take-up of training and, if not, how is the Board addressing this with partners?

Members noted that, although numbers had increased over the past year, the Board was not satisfied with City take-up of LSCB multi agency training; this was a multi-agency issue not limited to Corporation staff. Mr McCallum advised that the Board was intending to push on this in the coming year, and, in response to a Member's request, undertook to forward a list of those responsible for advertising training events. It was noted that staff may be attending single agency training but it was important to emphasise the benefits available from the LSCB multi agency training.

How does the Board measure the effectiveness of the City's Early Help arrangements and how effective does it think they are?

Mr McCallum reported that the Annual Report gave a snapshot of the effectiveness, and the progress could be measured in the changing statistics. He advised that the level of expertise was good, and the Board was very pleased with the ongoing scrutiny arrangements regarding quality.

Can you explain why these particular priorities have been identified for the Board?

Mr McCallum detailed the three priorities for the Board for the coming year:

The Local Safeguarding Context – this included Child Sexual Exploitation; Children Missing from Care, Home and Education; Preventing Radicalisation; Female Genital Mutilation; Neglect; and Domestic Violence. Members noted that the latter two were key to linking all these areas and implementing intervention strategies and support to address them all.

Early Help & Early Intervention – by front-loading resources, people could receive help earlier, reducing need later in life and theoretically reducing demand and therefore cost.

Strong Leadership and Strong Partnership – ensuring safeguarding is a topic at the forefront of leaders' agendas, encouraging a discussion of issues at all levels of management, including frontline staff.

Despite statistics for Child Sexual Exploitation and Private Fostering being low or zero, these were included in the priorities for the Board – can more detail be provided?

Mr McCallum reported that just because no cases had been identified so far, this was no guarantee a case wouldn't be reported in the near future. The Board was keen to remain vigilant, encouraging residents to report anything and equip them with the right questions to ask.

The Chairman thanked Rory McCallum for his presentation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. **INSPECTION OVERVIEW**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services, which provided a summary of the plans and processes in place to ensure consistency and continuity in preparing for and responding to inspections, peer reviews and other reporting requirements across Community and Children Services..

Important to be successful in inspection but more importantly by what means are you ensuring that the learning from inspections is addressed on a day-to-day basis?

Officers reported that learning from inspections and reviews were used to improve processes and outcomes, and that this was a continuous process of development. Members noted the details of an event taking place on 3rd February, and that a new Service Improvement Board (SIB) was being set up from January 2016 to examine action plans and outputs. This would be independently chaired and would report to this Sub Committee when necessary. The SIB built upon the tradition of the Department's aim to ensure continuous improvement and learning is built into business as usual arrangements across all service areas.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

10. **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
11–15	1 & 2
16-17	-

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

12. **CITY OF LONDON CICC (CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL) UPDATE**

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

13. **CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT**

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

14. **QUARTER 1 AND QUARTER 2 ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OUTCOMES**

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

15. **CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR QUARTER TWO FOR 2015/16**

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

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm

Chairman

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