

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 November 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services)
Committee held at Committee Room 1 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on
Thursday, 17 November 2016 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Gareth Moore (Chairman)
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula (Deputy
Chairman)
Randall Anderson
Marianne Fredericks

Professor John Lumley
Deputy Joyce Nash
Dhruv Patel

In Attendance

Officers:

Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Pat Dixon	- Community and Children's Services
Marion Willicome-Lang	- Community and Children's Services
Rachel Green	- Community and Children's Services
Monica Patel	- Community and Children's Services
Elizabeth Malton	- Community and Children's Services
Julia Hodson	- Community and Children's Services
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's
Craig Simpson	- Town Clerk's

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

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 2 June 2016 were approved.

4. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

The Sub Committee received two of reports of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the recent Ofsted Inspections. Members were very pleased to note that Children's Services had been judged as 'Good' with a number of 'Outstanding' features and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board had been rated 'Outstanding'. The Audit and Risk Management Committee had received this report at their last meeting and had asked for their

congratulations to be passed on to both Officers and Members of the Sub Committee.

A very good report. What will be the oversight and reporting mechanism to ensure recommendations from the inspection are followed up?

Members noted that there had been six recommendations arising from the inspections. The recommendations had been included in an action plan, which would be a standing item on future Safeguarding Sub Committee agendas.

One recommendation was to look at how Members could have more opportunities for engagement with Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers. How would the young people like to see our Members engaging more with them?

Officers suggested that Members might like to visit the Children in Care Council (CICC) and/or offer shadowing opportunities. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman offered to assist and it was also suggested that LAC and care leavers be invited to events at the City of London Academies, when Members were due to attend.

In response to other questions, Members noted that the Children's Service Manager had written to the Director of the Whittington Health Service in respect of record keeping on education and health matters. Records were now being audited every 6 months and there had been an improvement since June 2016. All LAC in the City had received their medicals on time but the health histories were taking a little longer. Officers suggested, and Members agreed, that Whittington Health Service be invited to attend the Safeguarding Sub Committee when their Annual report was presented.

RESOLVED, that – the outcome of the Ofsted Inspections in respect of the Children's Services and City and Hackney Safeguarding Board be noted.

5. ANNUAL UPDATE ON CUSTODY (YOUNG PERSONS, CHILDREN AND MENTAL HEALTH) AND USE OF FORCE

The Sub Committee received a joint report of the Town Clerk and the Commissioner, City of London Police, which provided an overview and update on three key areas of policing; young persons and children in custody, mental health crisis in custody and use of force. Members noted that this was the first report on youth custody which had been presented to the Safeguarding Sub Committee. The new Custody Manager was working on baselines in order to improve the commentary and provide comparative data in future reports but Members noted that, anecdotally, the City was performing well when compared to neighbouring boroughs.

Given the majority of children detained in custody are not City of London (CoL) children, do the CoL Police share information with local areas regarding the young people regarding the detention?

Members noted that a Child Coming to Notice Report was raised for all children coming into custody and this was cross checked monthly. The reports were reviewed daily by the Public Protection Unit and the information about all children (City or non-City) was shared with the City's Children's Services Team. In addition, the Police made direct referrals to the Borough where the child resided and the City's Children's Service Team followed this up. The numbers were also shared with the Local Safeguarding Board, as part of performance reporting. The Children's Service Manager confirmed the very high standards of the above procedures and their additional benefit in identifying patterns and vulnerability from a social work point of view. For example, there had been occasions where child sexual exploitation risks had been identified.

The report highlights the role of the Professional Standards Department in respect of governing complaints and conduct matters. Have there been any LADO referrals from Custody via the PSD?

There had been no LADO referrals in respect of custody staff this financial year.

In response to further questions from Members, it was noted that the concept of the 'bubble room' met the Home Office standard for this type of custody and young people were detained for as short a time as possible. However, Members were concerned that it could take up to 2 and a half hours for an appropriate adult to reach a young person. Officers advised that they met with the Appropriate Adult Service regularly and delays were often due to the late arrival of the parent or carer. In addition, forensic and medical services, which were commissioned by the CCG, had lost some of their resources and, as they worked on a rota, this also contributed to delays which were beyond the control of the City of London Corporation. Whilst understanding the circumstances and noting that this was a national issue, Members asked that their concerns be shared with the Police Committee and asked if officers could instigate a strategic challenge. Finally, Members asked if a Police representative could be in attendance at future meetings, when required.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. ANNUAL QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORT 2015 TO 2016

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of quality assurance activity which had taken place within Children's Social Care between April 2015 and March 2016.

A very good report. The QA work of the service was complimented in the Ofsted inspection. Ofsted also recommended the need to engage children and families more directly in QA work. How will the service go about implementing this?

An audit has been taking place during November. As part of this, all children and families open to the service have been written to in order to seek their views about the service. The findings from this will feed into the overall quality assurance analysis and service improvement planning.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. SELF NEGLECT (AND CHRONIC HOARDING) PROTOCOL

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which summarised the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Self-Neglect (and Chronic Hoarding) Protocol.

A helpful report introducing the new protocol. To what extent is this an issue for the City and what impact has the new protocol and panel had on supporting vulnerable adults?

The Protocol had engaged all of the City's Estates, including the Guinness Trust and there had been subsequent referrals by housing officers. Officers had also been working with City Solicitors and Environmental Health Officers. Members noted that, anecdotally, self-neglect and hoarding had been a big issue in the City and now formed part of multi-agency safeguarding work.

8. SUFFICIENCY AND COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which summarised the proposed commissioning strategy and how this would ensure sufficient capacity to meet the diverse cultural and ethnic needs of the City of London's LAC population. In response to a question about opportunities for young people leaving care, this had been covered under agenda item 4 (Ofsted Inspection Reports).

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted

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

There were no questions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items.

11. 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
12-17	1&2

12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2016 were approved.

13. CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR QUARTER 4 2015/16 AND QUARTER 1 2016/17

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, which updated Members on the performance of the City's safeguarding function.

14. QUARTER 1 ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OUTCOMES

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the level and nature of adult safeguarding concerns received by the City of London Corporation during the first quarter of 2016/17.

15. ANNUAL REPORT VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which summarised the achievement of the Virtual School for the Academic Year 2015/16.

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 were no items.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm

Chairman

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