



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

Children & Adults, Public Health & Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Children & Adults, Public Health & Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee** held on **Monday 5th December, 2022**, Rooms 18.01 & 18.03, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillors Angela Piddock (Chair), Iman Less, Ellie Ormsby, Karen Scarborough, Selina Short, Max Sullivan and Lorraine Dean.

Co-opted Members Present: Alix Ascough (Headteacher, All Souls CE Primary School).

Also Present: Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector), Councillor Tim Roca (Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure), Raymond Anakwe, (Medical Director for Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust), Sarah Crouch (Bi Borough Deputy Director Public Health), Mick Fisher (Head of Strategic Communications & Stakeholder Relationships| Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust), Linda Hunting (Policy and Scrutiny Advisor), Sarah Newman (Bi Borough Executive Director of Children (ELT)), Visva Sathasivam (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adult Social Care), Rachel Soni (Director of Health Partnerships) and Gareth Wall (Bi Borough Director of Integrated Commissioning (ASC)).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Members of the Council, Cabinet Members, Co-opted Members, and guests to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair advised the Committee of the order of the meeting, to be the Cabinet Member update for Learning and Leisure, followed by the Children and Young People's Plan, the report on the Orthopaedic centre in north west London, the Cabinet Member update for Adult Social Care and Public Health, followed by the Annual Adult Safeguarding report.
- 1.3 The Chair reminded Members that the Committee has a statutory and scrutiny responsibility to scrutinise public health and education concerns of the Council.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Committee noted that Councillor Lorraine Dean was attending as substitute for Councillor Tim Mitchell.
- 2.2 The Committee noted apologies for Mark Hewitt (Headteacher, St James and St John CE Primary School) a Co-opted Member of the Committee and Marina Coleman (Headteacher, St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School) a Co-opted Member of the Committee.
- 2.3 It was noted by the Chair, that Co-opted Members should be included on the front page of the agenda, with reference to their respective diocese.
- 2.4 **ACTIONS:**
1. Scrutiny to include list of Co-Opted Members as a standing item on the agenda.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The Committee noted that Councillor Karen Scarborough made a declaration of interest. Councillor Scarborough declared that in respect of items to be discussed, Councillor Scarborough is a Trustee for the Young Westminster Foundation, and a Governor at St Vincent's and St Mary of the Angels Schools.
- 3.2 The Committee noted that Councillor Lorraine Dean made a declaration of interest. Councillor Dean declared that in respect of items to be discussed, Councillor Dean is a Learning Support Assistant at City of Westminster College.
- 3.3 It was noted by the Chair, that Scrutiny will compile a schedule of any known interests of Members of the Committee, which may be relevant to the business of the Committee, into a standing declaration of interest document.
- 3.4 It was noted by the Chair, that where a Member of the Committee has an interest in relation to a specific agenda item at a Committee meeting, this should be raised at the start of a Committee meeting by the Member.
- 3.5 **ACTIONS:**
1. Scrutiny to compile a schedule of known interests of Members which may be relevant to the business of the Committee into a standing declaration to form part of the meeting agenda.
 2. Members to update Scrutiny with any known interests which may be relevant to the business of the Committee.

4. MINUTES

4.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 12 September 2022.

4.2 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 20 October 2022.

RESOLVED:

4.3 That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4.4 That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

5. PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING AND LEISURE (Councillor Tim Roca)

5.1 The Committee received an update from Councillor Tim Roca, on priorities for the portfolio and any updates that have arisen. The Cabinet Member responded to questions on the following topics:

- Ofsted inspections recently conducted in Westminster at Greencoats, Beachcroft, St. Lukes, College Park, and Gatewa schools.
- The overall performance result of schools in the borough (based on published reports) which currently sits at 95 % good to outstanding, compared to the current national average which is 87%.
- The Culture Fund, opportunities for funding, and the community grants process.
- The plans for the funding of free school meals which is about to go to Cabinet.
- The Tresham Centre for Disabled Children and Young People and the current issues in it not achieving the required standards, due to problems with security measures and a young person being able to leave the premises, and other maintenance issues at the site, such as heating.
- The fatal stabbing that occurred recently in the borough, including the injuries and age of the three young people involved, and how the police are working with the local community in the aftermath of this event.
- The cost of living and what this portfolio is doing to support its residents.
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, availability of places across the borough, and what is being done to support and encourage families to take-up these places.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and the funding the Council receives to support those young people.
- The cost pressures on Westminster schools, what can be done about funding, and supporting schools in the borough.
- The plans for the Councils exclusion strategy and the impacts between that and other issues with young people.
- Seymour Leisure Centre and the plans forward, including, when Scrutiny will have the opportunity to review the plans.

- The cuts to funding from the Arts Council and how that will affect services in the borough.
- The additional funding the Council will receive for schools from the DfE for and how that is being distributed.
- Extra-familial abuse, including children at risk of criminal and sexual abuse.
- Issues around the cost of living and children being referred to social care, including, the recent significant increases in referrals across the service.
- The proportion of young people that are being funded in the borough that do not reside in Westminster and plans to recoup any of this cost from the other boroughs.
- Ensuring that schools apply for and work with the free school meals scheme to ensure that pupil rolls are maintained, plans for how universal free school meals may be funded by central government, national intervention from Barnardo's, the timing for schools to receive the funding, and communication to families about the offer.
- A provision for free school meals for nursery school children, the 31 schools in the borough that are eligible for the magic breakfast provision, what it should contain, and how the number of eligible children for assistance with school meals is growing.
- The London Living Wage and how that is reflected across the services.

5.2 **ACTIONS:**

1. That information be provided to Committee regarding the recent Ofsted inspections carried out in Westminster schools.
2. That information be provided to the Committee on the discussions with schools and the police, and the intended plans of the Council for the exclusion strategy.
3. That further information be provided to the Committee regarding the funding that will be received from the DfE for schools, how that is distributed, and how that money will positively impact schools in the borough.
4. That an optional session be arranged for Councillors to discuss with a Head Teacher /s, Ian Heggs (Bi-Borough Director of Education), and potentially others, the most pressing current issues in the schools and what can be done to support them.

6. **PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR (Cllr Nafsika Butler-Thalassis)**

- 6.1 The Committee received an update from Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis, on priorities and any updates that have arisen. The Cabinet Member responded to questions on the following topics:
 - The delivery and uptake of Covid-19 and flu vaccinations for vulnerable and learning-disabled people, including, visiting residential and care facilities.

- The Autism Strategy going to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Issues around obesity in adults, including, the effects due to the cost of living crisis and what the Council is doing in light of this, the uptake of Healthy Start vouchers and eligibility, the Healthy Weight Strategy, and how this is being communicated to residents, including promoting exercise.
- The Council's drug strategy, Street Engagement Unit, Integrated Gangs Unit, and what interventions are in place to address both the health-related issues and social issues around drug taking in the borough.
- The funding for the Food and Fuel Poverty Network, funds allocated for resident advice services and food banks, extending these services, and how long these services may be available.
- The Suicide Strategy, including those greater at risk and deprived wards, and what the Council is doing to prevent suicides in the borough.
- The immunisation of particular groups, such as asylum seekers, rough sleepers, people at the Home Office contingency hotels, Crisis at Christmas, and supporting the uptake.

6.2 **ACTIONS:**

1. That information will be provided to the Committee about the take-up of Covid-19 and flu vaccinations for vulnerable and learning-disabled people.
2. That the figures regarding the deaths of disabled people across the borough as a result of Covid-19 be provided to the Committee.
3. That information be provided to the Committee regarding where the Healthy Start programme is being promoted.
4. That the Council Drug Strategy be allocated to the Work Programme as a separate item for discussion.
5. That information be provided to the Committee about the Suicide Prevention Strategy and what the Council is doing to prevent suicides in the borough.

7. **ORTHOPAEDIC IN-PATIENT SURGERY NW LONDON PROPOSAL**

7.1 The Chair welcomed Raymond Anakwe (Medical Director for Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust) and Mick Fisher (Head of Strategic Communications & Stakeholder Relationships| Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust) to introduce the paper about the plans to improve orthopaedic in-patient surgery and care in north west London and provide an overview. The Medical Director and Head of Strategic Communications & Stakeholder Relationships responded to questions on the following topics:

- The consultation process to date, including feedback from service users, the community, and partners, and the programme for the remainder of the consultation period.
- The importance of the joined-up approach between patient care services across the borough.

- Waiting lists and the issues with addressing the backlog of patients requiring orthopaedic care.
- Wasted travel time for staff and patients and plans to address these issues with the opening of the surgery.
- The costs to patients in travelling for treatment and the plans to transport patients between services, including, the possible involvement with voluntary services.
- Patient choice and personal requirements regarding the location of treatment.
- Targeting minority groups or vulnerable residents, understanding their specific needs, building confidence, and ensuring they are supported through other services such as, childcare, the voluntary sector, and translators.
- The complimentary, digital part of the service to improve communication with patients, to include online discussion and follow-up with medical staff and addressing the issues around patients that are not digitally confident.
- How follow-on treatment like physiotherapy will take place.
- The consultation booklet that is in circulation until 20 January 2023, the survey questionnaire, the independent body that will review responses, and the consultation report that will follow, including, how that will be analysed and fed into the business making decision case in the NHS, in early 2023.
- The plans to open the surgery at the end of 2023, and how Members can assist in the consultation and recommendation process.

8. THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (2023-2026)

8.1 The Chair welcomed Sarah Newman (Bi Borough Executive Director of Children to introduce the report about the three-year plan for Children and Young People in the borough and provide an overview. The Bi Borough Director of Children responded to questions on the following topics:

- How Members may be better informed about the concerns of young people by actively engaging in discussions and events (where appropriate) such as the Youth Council.
- The Youth Offending Service (YOS), when the next inspections are taking place, what the expectations are, and the result that is expected.
- The challenges with the probation service provision for young people.
- That several successful schemes for young people in the borough, such as Helping Hands and Young Westminster Foundation not included in the report to convey the necessary messages and support the plan.
- Oral health with young children and what interventions are in place to improve this, especially with children aged 5 years.
- Mental health in young people and what services are available.
- How the importance of play space should be highlighted as a priority in the report.
- The priorities and outcomes that are set out in this report, how these need to be clear and focussed, how they will be measured and communicated, and how the Council will be held to account, including, the development of a performance dashboard.
- Parental engagement with children and engagement with the available services for young people.

8.2 **ACTIONS:**

1. The Committee advised officers and agreed there should be a further review of the content included in the report, before publication. Committee Members agreed to submit their comments via email.
2. That the Committee will receive performance data, in due course, for the priorities and outcomes of the report, and officers will present to the Committee.

9. **ANNUAL ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

- 9.1 The Chair welcomed Visva Sathasivam (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adult Social Care) and Louise Butler (Bi- Borough Safeguarding & Quality Assurance) to introduce the report on adult safeguarding plans for the borough over the next year and highlight key points. The Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Bi- Borough Safeguarding & Quality Assurance responded to questions on the following topics:
- Awareness and engagement with vulnerable and ethnic minority groups in the borough.
 - The barriers to some groups for engaging with the relevant and necessary services and how this may be overcome.
 - Issues around safeguarding with certain groups, such as, the elderly and those who have suffered financial abuse.
 - Areas in the borough where there have been significant safeguarding issues identified and what interventions can be put in place.
 - The service shortfalls identified such as call-backs, residents not understanding how or where they can obtain help, language, and cultural barriers,
 - Reasonable adjustments that can be made for service users and how these may be invisible disabilities or needs and the forms of best practice that should be embedded in procedures and rolled into other relevant council services for residents.
 - The importance of the safeguarding ambassadors that have been developed within the service.
 - Policies and methods of consent around service users and different types of exposure on social media that may present safeguarding issues.
 - Deprivation of liberty assessments, quality assurance, and how the significant number of backlogs have been addressed by the Council.

10. **2023/2024 WORK PROGRAMME**

- 8.1 The Chair invited the Policy and Scrutiny Advisor to update the Committee on items on the Work Programme.
- 8.2 The Committee reviewed potential items to be prioritised for the 2023/24 work programme, which included focusing on:

- A visit to the Westminster Academy to gain information about the International Baccalaureate qualification.
- A task group to consider the cost of living crisis, how that affects schools and teaching, and the plans for this to come to the Committee at the February meeting.
- The potential for a series of deep-dive meetings to be held for specific items on the work programme that the Committee would like to discuss in more detail.

8.3 The Committee agreed there were no additional items to be included on the Work Programme and future potential items would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

8.4 It was noted by the Chair that officers may have questions deriving from reports at future meetings which they would like the Committee to consider.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 The Committee agreed there were no other business items to be discussed.

The Meeting ended at 9.13 pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____