



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 **Tuesday 28th February, 2023**, Rooms 18.01 & 18.03, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

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

Co-opted Members Present: Alix Ascough (Headteacher, All Souls CE Primary School), Marina Coleman (Headteacher, St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School) and Professor Ryan Nichol (virtual) (Elected Parent Governor - St. Gabriel's CE Primary School)

Also Present: Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector), Councillor Jessica Toale (Deputy Cabinet Member - Culture, Heritage and the Arts), David Bello (Acting Bi-Borough Director of Adult Social Care), Maria Burton (virtual) (Portfolio Advisor for Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis), Bernie Flaherty (virtual) (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adults), Ritchie Gibson (Head of City Promotions, Events and Filming), Linda Hunting (Policy and Scrutiny Advisor), Sarah Newman (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children (ELT)), Manisha Patel (Head of Operations, Governance and Service Development / Adult Social Care and Health), Anna Raleigh (Bi-Borough Director of Public Health), Patrick Ryan (Portfolio Advisor for Councillor Tim Roca), Serena Simon (virtual) (Director of Communities), 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 presentation from Dr. Paul Wood on the International Baccalaureate and Westminster Academy followed by the Cabinet Member update for Adult Social Care and Public Health, the Cabinet Member update for Young People, Learning and Leisure and the Annual Adult Safeguarding report.

2 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Committee noted that Councillor Jessica Toale (Deputy Cabinet Member- Culture, Heritage and the Arts) was attending as substitute for Councillor Tim Roca (Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure).
- 2.2 The Committee noted apologies from Mark Hewitt (Headteacher, St James' and St John CE Primary School) a Co-opted Member of the Committee.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 The Chair referred Members to the standing document of known interests of Members and noted there were no changes.

4 MINUTES

- 4.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 5 December 2022.

RESOLVED:

- 4.2 That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

5 WESTMINSTER ACADEMY & THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

- 5.1 The Chair welcomed Dr. Paul Wood (Principal and CEO Westminster Academy) to introduce the paper about the International Baccalaureate programmes. Dr. Wood responded to questions on the following topics:
- The overarching goals of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme and the global perspective of the qualification.
 - The reasons why the programme has been so successful at Westminster Academy.
 - The difference between single and multiple academy trusts.
 - The involvement and organisations the school currently works with and others it would like to work with in the future in the local community and nationally, to improve opportunities and outcomes for young people.
 - Interventions the school uses to connect students to future employment and training opportunities.
 - The goals and purposes of State Education in the UK and how this aligns with the IB programme.
 - The number of State and Independent Schools where the IB programme is offered fully or in part in the UK.
 - The overarching benefits for students of the IB programme, such as, international recognition of the qualification, taking ownership of their own learning, and preparation for their future outside of secondary education.
 - The approach of the learning process on the programme, both in and outside of the classroom and how the learner profiles are used to benefit students.

- What elements are covered in the IB Diploma programme and the advantages for university entrance.
- The concepts within the vocational programme.
- Potential opportunities for exchange programmes with other schools.
- The relationship with the Department for Education (DfE) and how their recognition of the IB Diploma programme allows for A Level funding.
- The careers related IB programme that is considered a (Business and Technology Education Council) BTEC qualification and how that fits into potential funding strands available from the DfE for T-Levels.
- The approach of Westminster Academy in relation to trauma-informed practices in teaching and the support methods used for students.
- Class sizes on the IB programme and the threat of these increasing in comparison to the independent sector.
- Hybrid models for sixth form.

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 success of the Winter Grants scheme for residents.
- The Communities Priorities Fund that provides funds for areas of deprivation in the north and south of the borough and the funds available, £600k which is approximately double to the figure available in 2022.
- The Westminster Charitable Trust and the additional category now included to promote inclusion for groups that have difficulty attending mainstream activities and the changes in timescales for funding of up to two years.
- The longer-term plans to support the voluntary sector, including plans for core funding.
- Discussions with the NHS Central North West London (CNWL) around plans for the Gordon Hospital, the shortfalls with services and accommodation for acute mental health patients in the borough, and the urgent need for plans to be made to address these issues.
- The need for further accommodation arrangements for residents with learning difficulties, as it has been recognised that 50% of people with learning difficulties live outside of Westminster.
- The Health Accountability Board, made up of the lead Cabinet Members across 8 boroughs and the joint letter that has been drafted regarding the concerns raised for travel arrangements of people attending the proposed North West London Orthopaedic Centre.
- The review of the Council's performance during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The next municipal year budget plans that are being taken forward for approval, including, the increased pressures and proposed funding for services such as, mental health and learning difficulties, developing local temporary accommodation, people who are discharged from hospital earlier with high needs, support services, and the Community Priorities Programme.

- The plans at Carlton Dene to be completed by 2025, the arrangements regarding the proposed partners, and potential plans for an in-house service offer.
- The complaints made to the Adult Social Care (ASC) service, what the Council is doing about the complaints received, who investigates and adjudicates complaints, a report that is being drafted about the complaints received, the accountability of the Council, and how the committee will review this information and make proposals for the future at a forthcoming meeting to be decided.
- The safeguarding webinars that have been offered and the plans of the Council to offer these types of informative sessions on other topics in the future.
- Covid-19 vaccine data of inclusion groups.

6.2 **ACTIONS**

1. That officers provide the report for Members which focusses on the lessons learned and areas for improvement that derive from the complaints received to the ASC/ PH service.
2. That officers provide an update on what types of webinars are being planned for the future.
3. That officers provide a report outlining the most recent Covid-19 vaccine data.
4. That information be provided to Members (as available and appropriate) on the Council's interventions for Learning Disabled people.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING AND LEISURE (CLLR TIM ROCA)

- 7.1 The Committee received an update from Councillor Jessica Toale, on priorities for the portfolio and any updates that have arisen. The Deputy Cabinet Member responded to questions under Councillor Tim Roca's on the following topics:
 - The waiting time for young people to be able to access the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the increase in cases for mental health services, including, acute care and the gaps that exist between this and a step-down provision in the community with additional support services.
 - Therapies and support for young people and their families in schools, including support for the schools.
 - Issues around early intervention with young people experiencing mental health issues, including, absence at school due to mental health, and the reasons behind why there has been such a significant increase in reported mental health cases among young people in Westminster.
 - The complexity of social care referrals.
 - The pressures on schools with the limited resources available and ideas about how the Council can support schools.
 - Funding for mental health and young people.

- The 115 total applications for the Culture and Community Grant scheme, the 35 applications that were short listed for funding, the nature of the organisations involved, the criteria for applications, and the 18 projects that have been taken forward.
- The Seymour Leisure Centre, including, the plans for the pool, library, café, planning permission, the closure in February 2024, the completion of works for 2026, and the engagement activities and communication with residents.
- The announcement of the Mayor of London to expand the Free School Meals Programme, how this will be rolled out into further primary schools, as well as nursery and secondary schools, and making those announcements to residents.
- The merger between St Stephen's and St Mary Magdalene's Church of England (CE) Primary Schools in Westbourne in light of falling rolls, the informal consultation process with parents, the headteacher and governing bodies, that a decision on the merger will be made in April for planning the next school year, and what the St. Stephen's site may be used for in the future.
- The Community Music Hubs and concert activities.
- How nursery funding is being phased over the next three years, what support is going to be provided to nursey schools, and the investment in early years provisions.
- The significant increase in obesity in early years children, the health implications, and the healthy eating implications for entering reception.
- Funding differentials between the different cohorts of refugees in Westminster, the offer for children and families, and an update on contingency hotels.
- The increased take-up of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) and discussions with the Grosvenor School Of Modern Art about continuing the provision for the half term.
- Supporting art and institutions and bringing these into the community, with involvement from a variety of organisations such as The Donmar Warehouse.
- Details of Afghani refugees in Westminster.
- The overspend of £584,000 in relation to short breaks for children with disabilities, when this was recognised, the continued demands, as well as the early intervention commitment by the Council, and how this is being managed alongside ensuring a service is provided to residents.
- The Access to Culture Report and that many of the recommendations from the report have now been incorporated into the Cultural Strategy, with consideration from cultural partners. It was reported that since Covid-19 the Council have increased engagement with cultural institutions and are working at understanding how the Council can support them in delivering cultural activities for residents.
- The charity Intermission Young Theatre that supports young people with mental health issues and those that may be at risk of being involved with gangs or are vulnerable.
- A review of the City Saver card and how this can be used to promote cultural activities better across the Council, as well as capture data about what services are needed for residents.
- Diversity of Governors in schools, as well as the diversity of their skill set.

Universal Free School Meals and what the Council is doing to ensure the rolling out of the programme won't affect school funding in relation to the Pupil Premium, how applicable families are making applications for the available funding, and how this will be monitored and communication with families.

7.1 ACTIONS

1. That officers provide the invite information to music hub events and any relevant information.
2. That information be provided to the committee about the funding provided for the Ukrainian refugees in comparison to other refugee groups.
3. That regular updates be provided to the committee about Afghan refugees.
4. That information be provided to Members about how and when information about the library at the Seymour Centre is being circulated to residents.
5. That officers provide information for the next scrutiny committee on mental health and young people and the increases noted in mental health cases among young people.
6. That officers provide information on the culture report recommendations.
7. That officers provide information for the next scrutiny committee on the complexity and amount of social care referrals.

8 LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

- 8.1 The Chair welcomed Angela Flahive (Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance- Director of Safeguarding (Children's)) and Emma Biskupski (Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) Business Development Manager) to introduce the report on the multi-agency work with children in Kensington, Chelsea, and Westminster during 2020-21 and provide an overview. The Director of Safeguarding (Children's) and the LSCP Business Development Manager responded to questions on the following topics:
- The Bi-Borough partnerships and what effect this had, if any, on service delivery.
 - Work carried out with Afghani refugee arrivals and safeguarding, as well as the lessons learned.
 - The Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) who are responsible for co-ordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them or could cause them harm.
 - The management of allegations in line with the Safer Organisations approach, including, training for safeguarding leads and reflective practice.
 - Supporting and building relationships with schools.
 - Unstated Westminster referrals, capturing the ethnic make-up of a family at the time of referral, how data is captured in Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and the new system being implemented across both Councils.
 - The Everyone's Invited website and how this is used to voice young people's safeguarding concerns.
 - Transitional Safeguarding and the involvement of Adult Social Care (ASC).

- The case reviews noted in the report, how these are initiated, how the partnerships identify settings of concern and then make constructive safeguarding recommendations.

9 WORK PROGRAMME

- 9.1 The Chair invited the Policy and Scrutiny Advisor to update the Committee on items on the Work Programme.
- 9.2 The Committee reviewed the two substantive items on the work programme for the next Committee meeting.
- 9.3 The Committee agreed items on the action tracker and the process for receiving feedback by the Policy and Scrutiny Advisor, and outstanding items from the current municipal year.
- 9.4 The Committee agreed that the draft work programme for the next municipal year would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 The Chair advised Members that a plan regarding pre-meetings for the next municipal year would be forthcoming.
- 10.2 The Committee agreed there were no other business items to be discussed.

The Meeting ended at 8.59 pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____