



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 **Thursday 27th July, 2023**, Rooms 18.01 & 18.03, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

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

Also Present: Councillors Nafsika Butler-Thalassis (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector) and Tim Roca (Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure), Linda Hunting (Policy and Scrutiny Advisor), Maria Burton (Portfolio Advisor to Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis), Nikki Costain (Portfolio Advisor to Councillor Tim Roca), David Bello (Head of Service, Bi-Borough Mental Health), Christine Mead (Head of Community Partnerships),(virtual), Manisha Patel (Director of Operations, Governance and Oxford Street), Seth Mills (Bi-Borough Director of Social Care), Rachel Soni (Director of Health Partnerships), Gareth Wall (Bi-Borough Director of Integrated Commissioning), Visva Sathasivam (Bi-Borough Director of Social Care), Jeffrey Lake (Deputy Director of Public Health WC), Sarah Newman (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children), Angela Flahive (Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance - Children's Services) and Kembra Healy (Bi-Borough Quality Assurance Manager).

1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The Committee noted that Councillor Caroline Sargent was attending as substitute for Councillor Ralu Oteh-Osoka.
- 1.2 The Committee noted apologies from Co-opted Members Alix Ascough, Marina Coleman, and Professor Ryan Nichol.
- 1.3 The Committee noted that Co-opted Mark Hewitt (Headteacher, St James' and St John CE Primary School) had stepped down from his role on the Committee as the Westminster City Council Headteachers Partnership representative with immediate effect. The Chair thanked Mark for his efforts on the Committee.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 The Chair referred Members to the standing document of known interests of Members and noted that Councillor Dean had been added in respect of her role as a Learning Support Assistant at City of Westminster College.

2.2 The Committee noted that there were no other declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

3.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 12 June 2023.

3.2 It was noted by the Committee that the minutes recorded there was to be a further discussion about the Work Programme at the July meeting and that due to the review of the Policy and Scrutiny function, this would not take place until after September.

RESOLVED:

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

4 PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

4.1 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:

- How the Council has secured funding for its first School Superzone as part of the Mayor of London's programme and will be working with Edward Wilson Primary School in Westbourne Green.
- Supporting healthy weight as part of the Superzone initiative and across the borough and whether there were any current proposals to extend the existing allotments that exist at Millbank Academy and Churchill Gardens schools.
- The Participatory Budget Scheme, Community Grants, and residents being able to input ideas for projects at a community level.
- The Learning Disability Accommodation Services and day services, the potential savings and the opportunity for more regulation with the unification of the contracts for services.
- How the providers for the specialist care within Learning Disability Services and the most vulnerable will be monitored, how the standard of continuous consistent service will be addressed for the different types of provisions, and how the procurement and contract evaluation process will work going forward to ensure that if a new provider offers a better quality service, that service will be migrated from LDN London (Learning Disability Network London) to a new provider, including input from local residents.
- The reprovision and relocation of the Community Access Westminster services for residents with complex needs, including, the scope to expand the

services available and the geographical location of services to avoid those most vulnerable needing to travel across the borough.

- The Global Majority Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), focussing on the health inequalities that Westminster's Global Majority communities experience, which minority groups are the focus, the methodology of the assessment, when the Committee will be able to view a draft of the assessment (that will be finalised in March 2024) and make recommendations for the types of questions that should be included, how far the assessment should go in informing Council programmes (such as #2035), and to what extent the findings will be tracked and monitored across different areas of the Council.
- The plans for the Health Equity Fund in the Autumn to enable funding for public health outcomes, as informed from the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) for longer outcomes, working with voluntary sector groups to reduce health inequalities in the borough.
- The importance of early engagement with interventions such as the the BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Health Forum and the Maida Vale Caribbean Men's Domino Club and to engage with as many community organisations as possible at each stage.
- The recommendations made as part of the Children and Young People's Drug Strategy and the importance of utilising all of the Council's networks in schools, youth centres, and other units to ensure there is a measured approach with the young people involved and they are getting the support they need. Councillor Roca updated the Committee on the project Black and Bloom that is being rolled out in primary schools to support issues around substance misuse and the benefits of school and education, including workshops led by Paul Canoville (first black player for Chelsea Football Club) at Stamford Bridge.
- Voluntary sector funding, the grants that are awarded by the Council, and how these organisations are monitored both in terms of safety and quality of service for residents over the period of the grant. How the organisations report to the Council, the governance process on applications, and the external provider that checks on the day to day running of the programmes and how that is recorded.
- The Mental Health Digital Platform, how this will work in principle with the digital resources available and the local community provision, and the opportunity for Members to view and test the platform.
- The Gordon Hospital and the latest efforts of the Council to replace the mental health beds that have been lost with the closure of the hospital, including, the clinical model options that have been presented by CNWL NHS (Central North West London NHS) and how this is being taken forward on behalf of residents.
- The Champion Project Apprenticeship scheme and the project suppliers involved.
- Supporting healthy weight and more cycle training in schools.

ACTIONS:

1. That information about the Community Champion Apprenticeship scheme suppliers to be provided to the Committee.

2. That information about extending cycle training in schools will be provided to the Committee in a future Cabinet Member report.

5 PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, LEARNING, AND LEISURE

- 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:

- The contract around speech and language therapy.
- The apprenticeship scheme in social work and the difficulties around recruitment, including new apprenticeships in social care, the investment the Council has made, including progression, and what types of interventions can be rolled out to attract more local applicants.
- Attracting and retaining experienced social workers, the robustness of the Council's Child Protection Team, and the investment in specialist staff and clinicians.
- School attendance and behaviour issues post the Covid-19 pandemic and the additional support the Council is looking to offer, such as strengthening the inclusion programme.
- Trauma informed training that has been rolled out in schools, and the inclusion programme which works with children, their families, and teachers to deescalate behaviour issues and provide support.
- Redevelopment of the Tresham Centre, when the works will be completed and the centre will be operational, the difference in the budget that has been assigned for completion, and the reasons for the increase in the costs involved.
- Gangs and gang violence, including, the fatal stabbings that have occurred and what is being done to reduce serious youth violence, the effectiveness of the Westminster IGXU (Integrated Gangs and Exploitation Unit), and plans to work more with different communities such as the Kurdish community, and the correlation between substance misuse and gang activity.
- The Substance Misuse Strategy, including, where there are concerns around the parents and families of the young person, safeguarding issues, and who is purchasing the substances and from whom.
- The preventative work around youth violence being carried out at primary schools and in specific wards for 18–25-year-olds, including, interventions to promote education, training, and employment.
- The trauma faced by communities and families when youth violence occurs, understanding the cultural differences and taboos of communities, especially with young men, and residents understanding and utilising the support systems that are available to them.
- What the Council are doing to focus on, and invest in, improving outcomes for young people and engage with some of the issues, such as violence, exploitation, and vulnerability, and utilise local communities and services, making sure that social workers caseloads are not onerous, and that schools are supported as much as possible.

- Half term activities such as Unlock, and topics that would be beneficial for young people such as financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills as part of the citizenship training, the benefits of linking up with charities that offer these types of training, and the importance of the appropriate representation with young people.
- In-person engagement sessions as part of the 'We Got U, U Got This' Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Campaign, by providers visiting schools.
- The Inside Out Festival and whether there is scope for this to be offered alongside the summer Holiday Activities and Food programme in locations across the borough to enable more young people to participate.
- The success of culture funding across the schools and getting young people to access and participate in cultural programmes.
- Enabling facilities such as community changing rooms in leisure centres for women wearing burkinis and hijab to change and use the facilities with privacy.

6 ADULT SOCIAL CARE (ASC) ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2022-2023

6.1 The Chair welcomed David Bello (Head of Service, Bi-Borough Mental Health), to introduce the report on adult social care annual complaints. The Head of Service responded to questions on the following topics:

- The difference between Member enquiries that are ward specific and service-user complaints and any potential crossovers.
- The social care services and support for vulnerable, elderly, and disabled residents in relation to the joined-up efforts between ASC and other services, such as, the provision of specific adaptations in a resident's home.
- Complaints that require specialist provisions that require services to work together such as housing and ASC to ensure the residents needs and support are met.
- The importance of a joined-up approach between services.
- How complaints that are raised directly to a provider are assessed in relation to the complaints that are received directly by ASC, whether the Council is copied in these complaints, and the contract management process and quality assurance that takes place, and the information the Council receives from the regulator.
- The work of the Quality Assurance Team.
- Feedback from service users and carers.
- The Ethical Care Charter and whether one of the points raised about carers not staying long enough with their clients would be addressed by the work of the charter.
- How the Council resolves complaints.
- The nature of the complaints, that 45% of the recorded complaints were about the service provided, and how the sub-categories that make up that figure are derived.

ACTIONS:

1. That Councillor Dean will provide the details of the casework regarding an elderly resident and adaptations required in their home to officers.
2. That information will be provided to the Committee about the sub-categories of complaints that make up the 41% result for 'quality of service' as cited in the report.

7 THE INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT AND THE CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION ANNUAL REPORT

- 7.1 The Chair welcomed Angela Flahive (Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance - Children's Services) to introduce the annual reports on the independent reviewing service and children's participation. The Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance responded to questions on the following topics:
- The steps taken to make services more accessible for looked after children, especially for the young people that cannot read, communicate, or understand what is going on.
 - Advocacy for Children Looked After and Care Leavers and how the 23 children and young people referrals noted in the children's participation report relates to the 505 reviews in the independent reviewing service report. The 23 referrals relating to reviews where the issues raised have not been dealt with at the earliest possible stage.
 - The Looked After Children's review process at 1, 3 and 6 months.
 - How the young person may request an advocate to accompany them to a review.
 - How the young people are brought into the discussion and decision process about what will affect their lives.
 - The transition from leaving care into independence and the extension of responsibility of local authorities from 21 years of age to 25 years of age and the percentage of young people at these ages who request for continuing support.
 - The involvement of looked after children working as mentors and role models for others and providing motivation, support, and reassurance, and the success of these activities.
 - The pilot schemes that will be continuing for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
 - The percentage of looked after children that go on to higher education and university, in particular the unaccompanied asylum seeker young people and the overall performance of vulnerable young people against their peers.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

- 8.1 The Chair invited the Policy and Scrutiny Advisor to introduce the Committee to the Work Programme and provide an overview.

10.4 The following points regarding the Work Programme were noted by the Committee.

- The scrutiny improvement task group had been set up to consider how best to carry out the scrutiny function, following the recommendations made in the independent review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.
- Further discussion about the Work Programme will take place at the September Committee.
- The digital social care platform demonstration for Members has been arranged as a briefing session for 27 September.
- The LAC (Looked After Children) Tuesday Club invitation for dinner with the young people for the Chair and 2 additional Members for 26 September, including further opportunities for all Members to attend.
- The recent meeting of the JHOSC (Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee) and the topics discussed such as the Gordon Hospital, The North West London Strategy for the provision of acute beds, the Standardisation of Adult and Paediatric Ophthalmology services across North West London, and the Development of Musculoskeletal Services across North West London.
- The new role of Councillor Cara Sanquest and how that will be incorporated into scrutiny from September.
- The Global Majority Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to be added to the Work Programme for Members to feedback recommendations.
- The Gordon Hospital pre-consultation process, the Committee's involvement in that process, and information for Members about the clinical options and relevant data to be disseminated following the fourth pre-consultation workshop, when received.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____