



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 21st September, 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, Ralu Oteh-Osoka, Caroline Sargent, and Max Sullivan.

Co-opted Members: Marina Coleman (virtual) and Professor Ryan Nichol.

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), Bernie Flaherty (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adults), Anna Raleigh (Director of Public Health), David Bello (Head of Service, Bi-Borough Mental Health), Christine Mead (Head of Community Partnerships),(virtual), Rebecca Gordon (Digital Lead - Digital and Innovation)(virtual), Coreen Brown (Head of Sport, Leisure and Active Communities) (virtual), Manisha Patel (Director of Operations, Governance and Oxford Street)(virtual), Seth Mills (Bi-Borough Director of Social Care), Rachel Soni (Director of Health Partnerships), Visva Sathasivam (Bi-Borough Director of Social Care), Sarah Newman (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children)

Guest Speakers: Dr. Gareth Jarvis (Medical Director, Jameson Division, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust), Ann Sheridan (Managing Director, Jameson Division, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust), Sally Milne (Associate Director of Strategy, System Transformation & Partnership, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust) and Professor Jill Manthorpe (King's College London).

1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The Committee noted that Councillor Caroline Sargent was attending as substitute for Councillor Selina Short.
- 1.2 The Committee noted apologies from Co-opted Member Alix Ascough.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 The Committee noted that in respect of Item 6, Councillor Max Sullivan declared that he is in a relationship with Councillor Cara Sanquest and would therefore not participate in Item 6.

3 MINUTES

- 3.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 27 July 2023.

RESOLVED:

- 3.2 That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4 THE PLAN FOR THE CONSULTATION ON ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF WESTMINSTER AND ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed Dr. Gareth Jarvis (Medical Director, Jameson Division, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust), Ann Sheridan (Managing Director, Jameson Division, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust), and Sally Milne (Associate Director of Strategy, System Transformation & Partnership, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust), to introduce the report outlining the plan for the acute mental health services in Westminster. The guests from the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) responded to questions on the following topics:
- The areas of acute deprivation in the borough outlined in the report and how this has been determined using a vulnerability index.
 - The tests for affordability and deliverability of the clinical model options set out in the consultation plan and the other options that were considered unaffordable, such as reopening the Gordon and the other community provisions.
 - The overall findings from the series of workshops, including, at what stages clinical model options were ruled out as being affordable or deliverable.
 - How the clinical model options that were considered unaffordable will be measured against positive public consultation responses for these models in the future.
 - How the different options have been developed and how Option C has been found to be the most preferable option, and why that is the case.
 - The other partners, such as the Police, that have been involved in the process of developing the options.
 - The pressure on social carers, including travel time, in being able to offer the level of care they provide.
 - The ratio of patients that have been using other facilities in the borough such as St. Charles Hospital and the level of service provided.

- Whether the Gordon Hospital would have closed if the Covid-19 pandemic had not happened.
- The national direction of care for acute mental health patients to be less restrictive, more community based, and how provisions are being designed to be more preventative and reactive.
- The standards of inpatient acute mental care that is intended for the residents that need it.
- The reasons why the Gordon Hospital was not considered suitable to remain open in its previous capacity.
- Suicide and crisis prevention and the work being done to ensure that residents in crisis have contact with mental health services.
- Learning Disabled and Autistic mental health patients and to what extent they are being considered in the consultation.
- What is being done about the community-based care provision for Learning Disabled and Autistic patients with acute mental health needs and support, whether there are plans for a specialist facility in Westminster for this group like in Brent, and what the intensive support outreach facility at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital offers to keep people well in the community.
- How workforce has been planned within the clinical options, including, retention, training, safety provisions, and a multi-agency approach to working in the future due to the complex needs of patients.
- The increase in demand and waiting time for people in crisis and what interventions are being offered if it is not an inpatient bed.
- The Mental Health Crisis Assessment Centre that opened last November and how it works with people from the community and also from Accident and Emergency units.
- The number of placements for inpatient care that are being made outside of the borough over the last 10 months and the alternatives for crisis care that have been deployed.
- How the Police will be dealing with mental health callouts going forward and how this has been factored into plans, the closure, and the consultation.
- Groups such as gender reassignment and how that has been assessed in the report under the target user groups.
- The primary concern that Westminster residents are not being cared for in Westminster and how this may add additional stress and anxiety for them and their families.

4.2 ACTIONS:

1. To provide the Committee with the findings from the second workshop and the decisions made on the clinical model options which are not going to be taken forward in the pre-consultation due to affordability and deliverability.
2. To provide the Committee with information evidencing that the impact on social workers travelling across the borough to support residents with acute mental health needs has been addressed in the next consultation report that will be compiled by CNWL.

3. To provide the Committee with further explanatory details about how the priorities noted regarding the target user groups for acute mental health provisions have been decided.
4. To make clear provision in the clinical models for Learning Disabled and Autistic residents with complex mental health needs.

5 VERBAL UPDATE FROM PROFESSOR JILL MANTHORPE

5.1 The Chair welcomed Professor Jill Manthorpe (King's College London) to provide the Committee with an overview of her current research which is considering the impact of the Gordon Hospital on Westminster residents. Professor Manthorpe highlighted the following topics:

- The historical use of the Gordon Hospital.
- The inpatient mental health provisions that previously existed in Westminster and the shift in the services that are now provided.
- The Human Rights implications for residents due to the closure of the Gordon.
- The temporary closure of the Gordon, the reasons and the plans for this now to be more permanent.
- The evolving process of the consultation that has been carried out by CNWL.
- The loss of a 51 inpatient bed provision in Westminster.
- The 60 beds that previously existed at the Patterson Unit at St. Mary's Hospital and how the availability of acute mental health care has been gradually reducing across the borough.
- How the Gordon operated when it was open prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the relationships it fostered in the local community with partners.
- The standards and facilities inside the Gordon hospital.
- The accessibility of the Gordon for both staff and families.
- How a therapeutic, safe environment that is recovery-focussed is paramount to ensure the best outcomes.
- The length of time for inpatient care and how discharge should be used.
- The new community mental health support services and how there has been little assessment on these carried out to date, including, the capacity for many being very small (five people at a time) and therefore not sufficient as an alternative to inpatient care.
- The amount of waiting time and how the holding centres are being used, and the standards of those centres.
- The pressures in supported accommodation and the implications for staff and the other people in the accommodation.
- How successfully the Gordon Hospital managed relationships at a local level, such as the Police.
- The importance of speaking to people who were previously detained at the Gordon Hospital as part of the consultation process.

6 PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENT PARTICIPATION, CONSULTATION REFORM, AND LEISURE

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

- The update to the search function on the Council website.
- The monitoring being carried out on the call centre and response rates.
- The new consultation platform and hub for residents and improved accessibility which is aimed at increasing resident engagement, including, what is being done to engage with residents who do not use technology, such as by phone, by person and in local magazines.
- Making resident-facing services more accessible.
- The tendering process the Council used when deciding on a platform for the Council and what other local authorities have implemented.
- The new Council website landing page report.
- Translation services on the website.
- The five organisations that are in the Seymour Leisure Centre and how the Council will support them when they need to move out of the centre.
- The ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) consultation details and results available on You Said We Did.
- Report It and how the number of complaints are captured for complaints about electric bikes.
- The Noise Interface and the digital service that maps complaints and the use of noise inspectors.
- Resident participation and how the Council engages with younger residents on different projects.
- The Stay Active initiative and the plans to ensure there is still an affordable option for residents once the Seymour leisure Centre closes for redevelopment due to the increases in usage, and how that communication with residents will take place.
- Street Play as a one-off event opportunity and Play Streets as an initiative that runs each year, the number of applications that have been received, and how the Council is engaging with residents and increasing awareness and support for these activities.
- The parking call contact centre data and the system change in April that caused the dramatic increases in areas such as call waiting time.
- The Communities Priority Programme and how the Council makes sure the membership of the panels that make the decisions on projects for each ward is representative of the local area and encourage areas that were not involved previously.

6.2 ACTIONS:

1. To provide the Committee with information about Westminster's parking contact centre, the system change, and the causes behind the variations in service reported.

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

7.1 The Committee received an update from Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis, on priorities for the portfolio and any updates that have arisen. The Cabinet Member responded to questions on the following topics:

- The action plan for the School Super Zone that has been developed between the school and local community and opportunities to join up with other local programmes.
- What considerations have been made in the School Super Zone plans about the heavy traffic around the school and the potential health implications for children when using outside areas.
- The Healthy Communities Fund where approximately £1 million per year will fund training in the voluntary sector to build capacity in organisations, where the model for this came from, and how this is a longer-term funding scheme for Westminster.
- The Healthy Lifestyle Services and the plans to link further with voluntary sector organisations to deliver the health and wellbeing initiatives around in the community across the borough.
- The independent reports about the closure of the Gordon Hospital that are being carried out by Professor Jill Manthorpe and HealthWatch, and the degree to which these will inform the consultation and decision-making process.
- The importance of ensuring that CNWL is aware of the questions and concerns Members have about the closure of the Gordon and that the questions raised should be followed up within the consultation.
- The Achieving Health Equity funding scheme, what organisations that have signed up or shown interest, how the scheme will work, the certified training that will be required, and how the safety of the advice that will be given such as nutrition and healthy weight will be managed and quality controlled.
- The terms of reference for the Better Care Fund (BCF) for Westminster and the review process that is being carried out across the NHS and Local Authority.
- The Community Grants Fund, the 12 wards where this is offered, the broader definition of high deprivation, how the funding decision panels are chosen, and whether the scheme will be expanded to include additional wards.

7.2 ACTIONS:

1. To provide the Committee with the action plan for the School Super Zone produced by the school and local community that includes community safety, road safety, and access to green space for physical activity.
2. To provide the Committee with information about the traffic around the school in the School Super Zone area and what considerations had been made for the health implications for children when they are in the outside areas.

3. To provide the Committee with the details of the organisations that have signed up and have been successful in joining the Achieving Health Equity funding scheme.

8 PORTFOLIO UPDATE - CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING AND LEISURE

- 8.1 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 school uniform fund and what the Council can do to bridge the gaps that exist between the funds available to families, the Government guidelines of affordability used for school uniforms, the early help service, the vouchers that are offered, and how the payment could be given directly to parents to make choices more affordable.
- The Westminster A-Level exam results which achieved an average of 79.9%.
- Extending the free school meals offer, which is reliant on support from the Mayor of London, the amount of funding that was topped up by the Council and after this year the position is not known.
- The future of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and additional funding received, what is included in the HAF sessions, the Council's partnerships, how long the funding will last, and what types of activities the Council would like to invest and support going forward.
- The Inside Out Festival resident engagement and whether there is an intention for the Council to increase the number of events and relationships with stakeholders and partners going forward, including outdoor activities and at other times in the year.
- Exam results for the International Baccalaureate, whether they could be included besides A-level results that are published.
- The pressures in children's social care services, based on statistics published at ASB about the turnover and shortage of staff rates. What the case loads for existing staff are at.
- The shortage of, particularly experienced, social workers for the most complex cases, what is being done to expand the recruitment process for obtaining social workers, and how the shortage of social workers is being dealt with.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, the number of foster carers available to support these children and whether this is sufficient, the applicable regulations, and what the Council is doing to recruit more foster carers and support for these children.
- Looked After Children and care leavers, the number that are in employment, education or training and what is being done to support independent living and ensure they are living in appropriate accommodation. Specific information on Care Leavers aged 18 to 25 that found themselves not in appropriate living.
- Pressures in children's social care, how risks are identified and managed given the challenging recruitment environment.
- HAF, whether these are full day events or a couple of hours, whether hot meals are served throughout and how long funding is set to last for.

- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, clarity was sought on the age criteria set for access to youth services and support and whether this was done by the local authority or set nationally. Particularly with regards to Merton Compliant Age Assessments which are available to those appearing to be aged under 23.
- Entitlement to care leaver status up to aged 25, whether asylum-seeking children are also entitled to access care leaver services and whether there is any priority given compared to domestic care leavers.
- Exam results, understanding the consistent levels of poor performance across various ages, whether the level of attainment is satisfactory and how progress could be achieved. Evaluating young people's success beyond attainment was then pondered as a potential future item to look at.

8.2 ACTIONS:

1. To provide information to the Committee about other opportunities to extend the Inside out Festival at different times of year and with additional stakeholders and partners.
2. To provide the International Baccalaureate results in Westminster for the Committee along with the A-Level results.

9 YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

9.1 The Chair welcomed Annabel Saunders (Director of Operations and Programmes, Children's Services) and Anna Raleigh (Director of Public Health) to introduce the report on mental health and young people. The Director of Operations and Programmes and the Director of Public Health responded to questions on the following topics:

- Mental health support in schools, whether the offering is made for every school in Westminster and whether they all take it up.
- The mental health conference with young people, the expected involvement of the schools, and what the Council is doing to further engage other schools.
- The changes that have been seen in the mental health of young people since the Covid-19 pandemic such as anxiety, stress, and suicide and how the Council are working with young people. Whether higher incidents of reported mental health could be seen as a positive, in the sense that young people are now being more open about mental health struggles.
- The support services that are required to meet the needs which are being presented by young people.
- The waiting times for young people trying to access mental health services and what is being done to reduce them.
- Supply and availability of acute inpatient mental health beds, available for children in Westminster and the challenges with young people that present with neuro-diversity conditions in terms of getting to and receiving the appropriate care.
- The correlations between families in deprivation, overcrowded housing or individuals with caring responsibilities and young people needing mental health support and what can be done.

- Increases in referrals and the complexity of cases of young people.
- How the Council can intervene earlier to prevent young people's mental health struggles before they might escalate. To better understand how mental health struggles can escalate and the pathways that lead to this.
- The importance and development of midwifery work in screening for the health of pregnant women and new mothers to ensure their emotional health and wellbeing. The impact that this can then have on their own mental health but also the long-term mental health of their child.

9.2 ACTIONS:

1. To provide future reports to the Committee with examples of common pathways experienced by young people who develop mental health struggles to better understand how these escalate and what intervention could be possible.

10 WORK PROGRAMME

- 10.1 The Chair advised Members that this meeting was to be the final meeting of the Children, Adults, Public Health and Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee, with the majority of the work of the Committee set to be split between two Policy and Scrutiny Committees: 'Young People, Learning and Employment' and 'Vulnerable Adults, Health, and Communities'.
- 10.2 The Chair advised the Committee that following the decision to approve these changes, made at Full Council, Members would be updated with specifics in due course.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____