



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee 26 April 2021

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Business and Children's Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held virtually on Monday 26 April 2021 at 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present: Councillors Karen Scarborough (Chairman), Geoff Barraclough, Richard Elcho, Christabel Flight, Lindsey Hall, Aicha Less, Eoghain Murphy and Tim Roca.

Elected Representatives: Ryan Nichol (Parent Governor)

Co-opted Voting Representatives: Marina Coleman (RC Diocesan Representative)

Non-Voting Co-opted Representatives: Wasim Butt (Principal, Beachcroft AP Academy)

Also present: Councillor Timothy Barnes (Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning), Emma Biskupski (LSBC Business Development Manager), James Blewett (London Coordinator, Making Research Count, King's College London), Nicky Crouch (Director of WCC Family Services), Angela Flahive (Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance), Councillor Matthew Green (Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning), Lizzie Grumbach (Head of the Lord Mayor's Office), Artemis Kassi (Senior Committee and Governance Officer), Clayton Resulaj, Deputy Youth MP for Westminster/Pimlico Academy.

Apologies: Alix Ascough (CE Diocesan Representative), Mark Hewitt (Headteacher, St John CE Primary School)

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 No changes to the membership

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 No further declarations of interests in respect of items to be discussed were made.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2021 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. UPDATE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS AND PLANNING

- 4.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member, Councillor Matthew Green, who responded to questions on the following topics:

- the West End recovery plans for businesses and communities, including the re-opening of retail and hospitality (al fresco dining)
- the review of Westminster's Gambling Licensing Policy
- the rising rates of unemployment of young people in Westminster
- the commencement and positive impact of the Kickstart programme and Westminster Wheels workshops
- Westminster Investment Service
- the issues concerning tourist VAT and lobbying central government
- the implementation and enforcement of the Busking and Street Entertainment Policy

4.2 ACTION

1. The Committee requested an update from the previous meeting on the Westminster Investment Service.

5. UPDATE: CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING

- 5.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member, Councillor Tim Barnes, who responded to questions on the following topics:

- the recent events at Pimlico Academy and subsequent community engagement, including the impact of media reports on Pimlico Academy in the community
- the communication with Ofsted, DfE, LEA and other stakeholders regarding the situation at Pimlico Academy
- the governance at Pimlico Academy
- the programme to promote Westminster schools to pupils
- the Bi-Borough School Inclusion Strategy and the reintroduction for excluded pupils into mainstream education
- the successful delivery of laptops to children and young people who attended Westminster schools, which included those that are not Westminster residents
- the reopening of libraries
- the rates of Covid-19 in Westminster schools, following all students' return, and potential support for future vaccination programmes

5.2 ACTIONS

1. Councillor Barnes to arrange a meeting with Councillor Murphy to discuss the plans for reintroducing excluded pupils into mainstream education.

6. THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP'S ANNUAL REPORT

- 6.1 The Committee received the first annual report of the new Local Safeguarding Children Partnership covering the borough footprints of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. The report set out the legal and statutory context for the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, a profile of safeguarding data, shared safeguarding priorities, the activity to address these priorities, the impact upon safeguarding during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the difference that was made.
- 6.2 The Committee discussed the following issues:
 - the ways to promote safeguarding children as a key priority for all
 - the ways to hold the Partnership to account to ensure they are delivering upon our collective safeguarding responsibilities
 - the engagement between the Partnership and children, young people and communities
 - the referral pathways, access to them and raising awareness of them
 - the impact lockdown / Covid-19 has had including a change in distribution of referral sources
 - the introduction of a new task group on children's and young people's well-being post Covid
- 6.3 The Committee acknowledged the dedicated work of those involved in producing the report and delivering safeguarding within Westminster.
- 6.4 The Committee commended the work that officers had undertaken to deliver safeguarding for children and young people in Westminster. The Committee emphasised the importance of having a collaborative and close working relationship between services, schools and the council generally and requested more detailed information about Safer Together and about safeguarding training.

ACTIONS:

1. The Committee requested a financial paper from the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership
2. The Committee requested a briefing paper regarding training to keep Members informed
3. The Chair requested a Safer Together follow up.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Committee discussed its task group work on the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in Westminster. The Committee also discussed how unallocated items from the present municipal year could be carried forward to the next year and that additionally directorates would be canvassed for suggested items. The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on 19th July.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Work Programme be noted.

7.3 **ACTION:** Canvassing relevant directorates for work programme suggestions in addition to suggestions from members.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

8.1 The meeting ended at 9.21pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____