



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 18th April, 2023**, Rooms 18.06 & 18.07, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

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

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), David Bello (Acting Bi-Borough Director of Adult Social Care), Maria Burton (virtual) (Portfolio Advisor for Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis), Lucy Cooke (Westminster Borough Director Mental Health Services), Nicki Costain (Portfolio Advisor for Councillor Tim Roca), Bernie Flaherty (virtual) (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adults), Linda Hunting (Policy and Scrutiny Advisor), Dr. Gareth Jarvis (Medical Director, Jameson Division), Christine Mead (Head of Community Partnerships) (virtual), Seth Mills (Bi-Borough Director, Social Care), Sally Milne (Associate Director of Strategy, System Transformation & Partnerships, Jameson Division), Sarah Newman (Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children), Anna Raleigh (Bi-Borough Director of Public Health), Ann Sheridan (Managing Director of Central and North West London Jameson Division), Jack Robinson-Young (Temporary Portfolio Advisor for Councillor Tim Roca), Serena Simon (virtual) (Director of Communities) and Rachel Soni (Director of Health Partnerships).

1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 Linda Hunting advised Members that Councillor Angela Piddock was unable to be present to chair the meeting due to illness.
- 1.2 Nominations for the post of temporary Chair were invited. One nomination was received by Councillor Tim Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Scarborough. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED:

- 1.3 That Councillor Max Sullivan be appointed temporary Chair of this meeting of the Children, Adult Public Health and Voluntary Sector Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.4 The Committee noted that Councillor Less and Councillor Ormsby had sent apologies for the meeting and were attending virtually.
- 1.5 The Committee noted apologies from Mark Hewitt (Headteacher, St James' and St John CE Primary School) a Co-opted Member of the Committee.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3 MINUTES

- 3.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 28 February 2023.

RESOLVED:

- 3.2 That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

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

- 4.1 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:
 - Free school meals and how the funding of this will be managed from the budget, including, the possible funding from the GLA.
 - The Ormiston Academy Trust and the pilot scheme for young people transitioning from primary to secondary school.
 - Little Venice and Porchester Leisure Centres, the decrease in memberships, and the future of leisure services for residents in Westminster, post the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - The second amalgamation of Church of England (CofE) primary schools in Westminster, the consultation, lessons learned, plans for further amalgamations, and the plans for the buildings following the amalgamations.
 - The recruitment of social workers, the social worker apprenticeship pilot and how these can be promoted by the Council, the training and retention of social workers by the Council, qualified social workers returning to the profession, and the use of agency staff.
 - Adult education in Westminster and forward plans, including, the Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES) Strategic Plan.

- The overall achievement of Westminster schools, ways in which the Council can look to assist schools going forward, and the schools that require areas of improvement.
- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) School provision in Westminster.
- Falling school rolls, the surplus capacity and future impact, and the plans to deal with the surplus going forward with further amalgamations planned.
- The leaflet produced by the Council that is provided to asylum seeking families regarding leisure services, the access to free services and discounts for these families, including, information about additional free services that could be included in the leaflet, such as the Westbourne Park Family Centre.
- The Children and Young People's Plan, the metrics and priority outcomes in the plan, and how these are measured by the Council.
- The progress of the Bayswater Family Centre.
- The take-up from residents of nursery places in Westminster.

4.2 ACTIONS

1. That information be provided to the Committee about the Ormiston Academy Trust.
2. That information be provided to the Committee about the falling memberships in Leisure Centre's such as, Little Venice and Porchester.
3. Officers to provide the Committee with a presentation about the adult education provision in the borough (WAES) and to also discuss the WAES Strategic Plan and provide Members with an opportunity to provide feedback.
4. Information to be provided to the Committee about how the Council plans to support schools going forward.
5. Information to be provided to the Committee about the timetable for the College Park SEND school.
6. Information to be provided to the Committee about discounts available for asylum seeking families at leisure and family centres.
7. Officers to include the Westbourne Park Family Centre services and discounts available in the leaflet for asylum seeking families.
8. Officers to provide the Committee with the quarterly report that shows the metrics and measures the priority outcomes of the Children and Young People's Plan.
9. A site visit of the Bayswater Family Centre for Members to be arranged when the centre is operational.
10. Information to be provided to the Committee of the available nursery places by ward or provider.

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

- 5.1 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 digital social care platform, how residents can interact with the service and what is included.
- The support services for residents with learning disabilities and the tender for these services with voluntary sector organisations that is currently being carried out by the Council.
- The learning disability drop-in sessions at the Beethoven Centre and resident uptake of these sessions.
- The highlights from the Covid-19 report into how the Council performed during the pandemic.
- Westminster Connects and the Nightstars initiative, and how this work is advertised in the borough to increase volunteer participation.
- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the consultation plan, including this coming to scrutiny for Member feedback.
- In-patient mental health services in Westminster.
- The Ethical Care Charter, the travel time that may be funded, how much this may cost, and how this funding may affect the overall budget.
- Voluntary Sector advice services being funded for the next two years at a cost of £2.5 million (£1.25 million each year) which funds an existing partnership consisting of Citizens Advice Westminster, Age UK, Asylum Aid and Deaf Plus.
- The Community Leadership Programme.
- The Gordon Hospital and the concerns about its closure, including, what the Council has done in order to understand what can be done to resolve this issue, and the intended consultation.

5.2 ACTIONS

1. Officers to provide Members with a demonstration of the digital social care platform.
2. Officers to provide information and data about the Beethoven Centre drop-in sessions for learning disabled residents.
3. Details of the independent report about how the Council managed the Covid-19 pandemic, including the recommendations made, to be provided to the Committee in due course.
4. Officers to provide the Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation plan to the Committee.

6 ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN WESTMINSTER FOR ADULTS

- 6.1 The Chair welcomed Lucy Cooke (Westminster Borough Director Mental Health Services), Ann Sheridan (Managing Director of Central and North West London, Jameson Division), Dr. Gareth Jarvis (Medical Director, Jameson Division), and Sally Milne (Associate Director of Strategy, System Transformation & Partnerships, Jameson Division) to introduce the report on the adult mental health pathway to mental health services in Westminster. Ann Sheridan, Lucy Cooke, Dr. Gareth Jarvis and Sally Milne responded to questions on the following topics:

- The universal concerns raised about the closure of the Gordon Hospital, the discussion with the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) around the closure, and whether legal advice had been taken about the closure.
- The consultation process regarding the closure of the Gordon Hospital and the reasons for the need of the consultation, why it has taken the length of time to commence the consultation, and what type of quality impact assessments have been carried out, as part of the consultation process.
- The reasons behind the closure of the Gordon Hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic and the reasons why the hospital hasn't been reopened to utilise the available beds needed since then, taking into consideration points such as the health and well-being of patients, quality of care, the available amenities, and the age and nature of the building.
- What the premises of the Gordon Hospital is being used for currently, and could be used for going forward, to assist with the volume of those in need of mental health interventions, such as a community hub for patients.
- The new ways of providing mental health care to adults that does not involve in-patient care, including transition services such as step-down beds.
- The ability for residents to access crisis care in Westminster, including homeless residents and those in hostels that are suffering from multiple mental health issues.
- The disturbances with residents around Anti-Social Behaviour displayed by people suffering from severe mental health episodes, the lack of suitable interventions, and that many people suffer over a sustained period of time.
- The impact on services such as the police, A&E, and Primary Care, including where people who are attended to by these services are kept waiting for long periods of time whilst in a mental health episode, pending assessment.
- The involvement of the voluntary sector and the increasing demand on their services to meet the need to deal with more residents experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Residents who are detained under the Mental Health Act and the effects this has on the individual (especially following release) balanced against someone who is looked after in the community with the correct mental health support interventions.
- The Mental Health Crisis Assessment Centre and the complex needs that many people who are mentally unwell present with, such as, housing, financial and employment.
- The number of people that are required to go out of borough to receive mental health treatment and the waiting time for someone in mental health crisis to access a hospital bed.
- The issues around individuals that access substances and self-medicate to cover up serious mental health issues. How people are triggered into mental health crisis from substance misuse, and the prevalence of this category of patients.
- The provision Harm to Hope where Westminster has received a 23% increase in funding this year which is aimed at providing mental health services. How this money is being spent and whether it could be used to assist issues around substance misuse and mental health.
- The Single Point Access Service and the Home Treatment Team for mental health care of people in crisis in the community.

- The time taken to find the appropriate care and support for people in mental health crisis, including Councillors feedback from specific cases in the wards.
- The funds that have been recouped due to the closure of the Gordon Hospital and how that has been used in community provisions, including, how cost-saving measures can have an impact on other services such as partner and voluntary services and local emergency departments, and how this is being monitored.

6.2 The Committee requested to visit the St. Charles and Gordon Hospital, and other mental health hospital sites noted in the report to increase the understanding of the services. The Committee also requested the following further information from the Central and North West London (CNWL) NHS.

1. The data on how long it takes someone with acute mental health care needs to access a hospital bed.
2. Further information on the quality impact assessments that have been carried out as part of the consultation process.
3. Information about the effect on other services such as partner and voluntary services and local emergency departments which have been affected since the closure of the Gordon Hospital and how this is being monitored.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Chair invited the Policy and Scrutiny Advisor to introduce the Committee to the draft Work Programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.

7.2 The Policy and Scrutiny Advisor explained the key changes to the format of the Work Programme document and outlined the priorities, rationale and format for the items, as well as the timing.

7.3 The Committee approved the draft Work Programme for the next municipal year.

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

- A date to be set for the Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES) to come to committee, following the proposed Member briefing session.
- The Council Drug Strategy to be moved to an earlier slot in the Work Programme.
- The written update on LGBT health provisions in the community to be provided in June by Councillor Williams to be revisited.
- Whether the Committee required additional meetings in the municipal year to be able to cover the breadth of topics and items that are part of this Committee.
- The scheduled dates of the meetings throughout the next municipal year.
- The number of items included on the Work Programme for each Committee meeting and that an indication should be made if some of the meetings will be longer.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

The meeting ended at 8.31pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____

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