



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee** held on **Thursday 18th January, 2024**, 18th Floor Meeting Rooms. Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillors Concia Albert (Chair), Gillian Arrindell, Lorraine Dean, Mark Shearer, Selina Short and Hamza Taouzzale

Also Present: Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector), Councillor Aicha Less (Cabinet Member for Communities, Children and Public Protection), Bernie Flaherty (Deputy Chief Executive, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health) (online), Anna Raleigh (Bi-Borough Director of Public Health), David Bello (Bi-Borough Director Health Partnerships), Gareth Wall (Bi-Borough Director of Integrated Commissioning), Visva Sathasivam (Bi-Borough Director of Social Care), Louise Butler (Bi-Borough Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Engagement), Serena Simon (Director of Communities)(online), Shama Sutar-Smith (Head of Culture and Strategy), Andrea Johnson (Community Equalities Manager), Linda Hunting (Policy and Scrutiny Advisor), and Maria Burton (Portfolio Advisor for Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis)

External Guests: Aileen Buckton (Chair, Bi-Borough Safeguarding Adults Executive Board), Halima Kamri (Project Officer, The Mosaic Community Trust)(online), Sabirah Ali (Head of Cultural Learning, Westminster Adult Education Service), Amy Colle Camara and Richard Kobena Osei (ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Students, Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES))(online), Chris Barlow (Westminster LGBT Forum), and Laura Nettleford (Specialist Adult Autism Advisor, The Centre for ADHD & Autism Support)(online)

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Committee noted there were no changes to Membership.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 The Committee noted Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis declared that in respect of the item the Safeguarding Adults Executive Board Annual Safeguarding Report (SAEB) she is employed at the BME (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities) Health Forum.

3 MINUTES

- 3.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting held on 4 December 2023.
- 3.2 The Committee approved the minutes of the Climate Action, Housing and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny meeting held on 12 September 2023.

RESOLVED:

- 3.3 That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.
- 3.4 That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September be signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4 WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The Committee noted that the Work Programme meeting held in October 2023 was to agree the items for this meeting and 7 March 2024.
- 4.2 The Committee noted that another Work Programme meeting to plan for the next municipal year work programme of the Committee will take place on 13 May 2024. This follows from the Policy and Scrutiny Cabinet Member Annual Update to be held on 22 April 2024.

ACTION:

1. An explanation to be provided to the Committee about the meaning of 'Community Safety Services' under the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

5 THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

- 5.1 The Committee welcomed Visva Sathasivam (Bi-Borough Director - Social Care, to introduce the report on the Care Quality Commission Assurance Framework. The Bi-Borough Director of Social Care responded to questions on the following topics:
 - Whether the Council is meeting the requirements under the Care Act 2014.
 - The expected timing of the inspection of the service and why the Council has not been inspected for a significant period of time.
 - What the new inspection regime will cover, including assessment by borough or by council, and the rating Westminster City Council is on track to receive.
 - The Disabilities Adaptation Team in housing and what is needed to join up the services across the Council.

- The preparation work that is being carried out with frontline staff, the Council's self-assessment processes, and how the priorities are being managed for each facet of the good practice guidance.
- The reasons why the CQC did not request that Westminster City Council took part in the pilot scheme.
- The focus on safeguarding in the inspection.
- How a vulnerable adult is defined in adult social care and what support would be offered if they were not assessed as vulnerable.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Council be proactive in participating in future CQC pilot activities and potential learning experiences so that areas of strength, development, and others learning experiences of the service may be understood further.

ACTION:

1. That the Committee receives the information and feedback from the five councils that participated in the CQC pilot scheme in 2023.

6 THE 2022/23 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS EXECUTIVE BOARD (SAEB) ANNUAL REPORT

- 6.1 The Committee welcomed Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector) to introduce the annual report by the Executive Board of Safeguarding Adults. The Cabinet Member, Louise Butler (Bi-Borough Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Engagement) and Aileen Buckton (Chair, Bi-Borough Safeguarding Adults Executive Board) responded to questions on the following topics:
 - The figures for residences with and without nursing care in the borough.
 - Deprivation of liberty and the complications and challenges in safeguarding, in law, and with the families, for those residents that lack capacity.
 - How the outcomes of success in the report are gathered and monitored.
 - Supported housing accommodation, who is considered vulnerable, and how this is monitored.
 - The number of safeguarding referrals by the Police and how the Council works with the Police and receives information.
 - Safeguarding for the elderly around driving, ownership of a vehicle, and road safety.
 - Working with GP's and Primary Care around safeguarding concerns.
 - Safeguarding in the community and how residents can raise concerns with the appropriate services.
 - Invisible disabilities and how this is included in safeguarding assessment processes.
 - The eligibility criteria and legal duty for safeguarding for those that are unable to keep themselves safe.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The SAEB to review the current the practices for deprivation of liberty, to include, working with families where a relative lacks capacity and consider best practice.

ACTION:

1. The Committee to receive an update about the work with GP and Primary Care around safeguarding concerns.

7 WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY EQUALITIES STRATEGY

- 7.1 The Committee welcomed Councillor Aicha Less (Cabinet Member for Communities, Children and Public Protection) to introduce the report on the Council's Equality Strategy. The Cabinet Member, Serena Simon (Director of Communities), Shama Sutar-Smith (Head of Culture and Strategy) and the external guests from the Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES), the LGBT Forum, the Mosaic Community Trust and the Centre for ADHD and Autism Support responded to questions on the following topics:
- Hate Crime against the Jewish community, protecting Jewish residents in Westminster against Anti-Semitism, and how this community will be addressed in the Equalities Strategy.
 - Cohesion between different communities and fostering relationships between them.
 - How residents with lived experiences of the nine protected characteristics are chosen to provide input and how the Council ensures this process is transparent and representative in order to inform the strategy.
 - How the Council are reaching out to communities to get involved and how those outside of the represented communities will also be able to input and help shape the strategy.
 - How the Council will consider and use the input from those residents with and without the protected characteristics.
 - Barriers to services and gaining a better understanding of why some communities or individuals are unable or do not want to access services and what the Council can do to improve this.
 - The Council's plans for engagement with young people such as the Church Street Young People's Group, the Youth Council, and engagement groups such as for Care Leavers.
 - How the Council will engage with communities that often don't engage or are known to services such as the disabled community, the Afro-Caribbean community, certain faith groups, and the difficulties in reaching them.
 - Working with Voluntary Sector Organisations.
 - The place-based community hub teams and how they are working with local communities to get a representative voice.
 - Reasonable adjustments, communication, and accessibility for residents with ADHD and Autism and ensuring their voice is heard in the strategy.

- What benchmarks are being used to consider where services are failing the broader community, alongside those who have protected characteristics, so that specific inequalities can be identified.
- The difficulties in writing an equality strategy that fits for all services as each one will have barriers to equality.
- The Public Sector Equalities Duties and what the Council is responsible for.
- How the Council will look at the protected characteristics and review how many people should be accessing a service, whether that is happening, and then investigate why some communities are underrepresented as well as those that are overrepresented and the reasons why.
- How the Council will use the census data to inform the strategy.
- Understanding the reasons for under and overrepresentation at services such as pressures to services.
- Discrimination against particular groups in the National Health Service.
- The importance of reaching out to the organisations for young people with Learning Disabilities and for the parents of young people with Learning Disabilities.
- Outreach that has been carried out with particular communities and how they were decided.
- Who is included in Global Majority Communities.
- Increasing diversity and accessibility of membership across community organisations and to services, in particular poor health outcomes.
- The scope of the strategy to include issues that are rising that affect men, such as male suicide and mental health issues, and how barriers to services can be broken down.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the known gaps which exist in organisations to support specific communities will be taken forward as part of the Equalities Strategy.
2. That the Council continues to strengthen partnerships with local organisations and community groups to broaden and improve engagement in the community.
3. That the Equalities Strategy will include plans to address the hate crime against the Jewish community and the LGBT+ community.
4. That the Council use targeted and tailored engagement strategies and outreach to ensure that different sectors of the community are reached and to increase accessibility to services.

INFORMATION REQUEST:

1. That the Committee will receive information regarding the local organisations and groups who the Communities team reach out to, to develop the Strategy, and the outcome of this engagement.

The meeting ended at 8.33pm.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____