



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Minutes

SOCIAL CARE, HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

30 July 2018

Meeting held at Committee Room 4 Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Jane Palmer (Chairman), Duncan Flynn (Vice-Chairman), Alan Deville, Ian Edwards, Janet Gardner, Becky Haggard, Nicola Brightman and John Morse</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Mark Billings – Housing Manager, Rod Smith – Service Manager - Tenancy Services, Ana Popavici – Deputy Director Children's Services, Sandra Taylor - Assistant Director, Provider and Commissioned Care, Janice Altenor – Head of Service – Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Peter Malewicz – Finance, Education & Children's Services Finance Manager and Anisha Teji – Democratic Services Officer</p>
13.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO REPORT THE PRESENCE OF ANY SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Judith Cooper and Cllr Paula Rodrigues, with Cllr Nicola Brightman substituting.</p> <p>Apologies were also received from Cllr Tony Eginton, with Cllr John Morse substituting.</p>
14.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>
15.	<p>TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes from the meeting on 13 June 2018 be confirmed as an accurate record, subject to clarifying that there was a national fund of £30 million for rough sleeping.</p>
16.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT THE ITEMS OF BUSINESS MARKED AS PART I WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT THE ITEMS MARKED AS PART II WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that there were no Part II items and that all business would therefore be conducted in public.</p>

17. **MAJOR REVIEW - UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND OTHER WELFARE BENEFIT CHANGES: LIKELY FAVOURABLE AND ADVERSE IMPACTS, RISKS AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE** (*Agenda Item 5*)

Officers introduced the scoping report for the major review, entitled Universal Credit and other welfare benefit changes: likely favourable and adverse impacts, risks and local partnership response.

The Committee was informed that the review was concerned with understanding the current and likely impact of future of Universal Credit and other welfare reform changes on Hillingdon residents and organisations. It was hoped that some practical recommendations would be made from the review. The terms of reference were also highlighted to the Committee.

Members considered the scoping report to be a good start to the review. It was noted that mechanisms should be put in place before the changes went live in October/November 2018. Members were informed that mechanisms were actively being worked on and changes were introduced to ways of practice through a pilot scheme in postal areas HA5 and HA6.

Members were keen to hear from residents throughout the review as they were the people most affected by the changes and the best experts. Members also welcomed hearing from DWP representatives and hearing from similar local authorities that had already rolled out the changes. Officers told the Committee that Hounslow and Oxford were good examples and similar to Hillingdon in many ways. Risks were managed and there was a good working group in place to try to negate any risks.

Members discussed the changes and agreed that training for Members would also be helpful in completing forms and the changes in Universal Credit. Members agreed that it would be useful to consider the review from the situation at the beginning, to where changes were made, to the current situation.

Members' attention was drawn to two reports; the Department for Work and Pensions: Rolling Out Universal Credit and Carrying the debt from the National Federation of ALMOs. These reports were detailed and it was agreed that these would be sent to Members to read.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the report titles, scoping report and witness that would be required to enable the Committee to conduct its review.

18. **2019/20 BUDGET PLANNING REPORT FOR SERVICES WITHIN THE REMIT OF SOCIAL CARE, HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE** (*Agenda Item 6*)

Officers introduced the 2019/20 Budget planning report and provided an overview of the key highlights. The report provided a strategic context in which the detailed proposals were to be discussed at POC meetings in January 2019. The report provided a broader financial position of the Council.

Members questioned the cost of servicing the capital finance cost debt and the assumptions factored in for the interest rates. Officers confirmed that they would provide further information on this.

In response to Member questions regarding ball point figures of anticipated savings, officers explained that they were always looking to the future and considering new

initiatives that would deliver savings, such as the supported living programmes where investment in early intervention and other support could avoid more costly intervention at a later date.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the financial context in which the 2019/20 budget setting process would take place in advance of detailed savings proposals being developed and approved at Cabinet in December 2018.

19. **TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN HILLINGDON** (*Agenda Item 7*)

Officers introduced the report entitled "Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in Hillingdon" and provided an overview of the key points.

The key points noted during discussions were that the position has strengthened since the 2015 strategy was introduced, focussing on prevention and support. There was a focus on the wider context of vulnerabilities and this had already been started in Hillingdon in comparison to other boroughs.

In response to Member questions, officers confirmed that there had been an improvement since the operational changes in terms of the police moving to three boroughs. It was helpful to have an overview of neighbouring boroughs.

Members thanked officers for the report and acknowledged the current situation. Members commented that there was clearly an improvement in the services which was demonstrated in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- (1) Recognised the ongoing commitment of Children Social Care and its partners to effectively intervene into the lives of those children who are sexually exploited.**
- (2) Continued to invest in Hillingdon's children to successfully prevent and intervene in Child Sexual Exploitation and other contextual risk factors (gangs and youth violence, county lines, human trafficking, modern slavery, etcetera).**

20. **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT (JULY 2018)** (*Agenda Item 8*)

The Chairman commented that there had been an excellent Ofsted report for management in childrens services, there had been a huge difference in performance and this was largely down to officers. The Council was serving children better and the detailed report was a reflection of the services.

Officers introduced the report and provided an overview. Officers added that the service was responding proactively to changes and were aware of areas of concern and what action needed to be undertaken. Honesty was key and there was a relationship of trust around the table. It was noted that adults services were running homes for children. There was partnership working with adult services and this worked well.

In response to Member questions, further information would be provided in relation to the percentage of the total cost of Home Office grant and what the plans of actions

were in relation to areas of improvement. It was also noted that in relation to the recruitment of foster carers, recruitment was hard due to a number of circumstances such as gender siblings, space and a competitive market. A number of initiatives had been introduced to try to encourage new suitable people to sign up.

Members congratulated officers for their hard work and the improvements made. Members asked for the annual foster carer report to be included in the work programme.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the contents of the report and the role the Committee and all Members have in championing the corporate parenting ethos across the Council.

21. **FORWARD PLAN** (*Agenda Item 9*)

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

22. **WORK PROGRAMME** (*Agenda Item 10*)

RESOLVED: That the work programme be noted.

The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 8.01 pm.

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Anisha Teji on 01895 277655. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.