

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Kath Whittam

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Gwen Kennedy, Commissioning Director, NHS Southwark
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Jay Strickland, Adult Social Care Director briefly introduced the
strategy
Julie Timbrell, scrutiny project manager

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Councillor James Okosun, Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer and Mr Martin Brecknell. Councillor Lisa Rajan apologised for only being able to stay for ten minutes for item 2.

VIDEO - OPENING THE MEETING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEmn-eJaM8M&index=1&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bLAIFSUHiJv

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 The vice chair requested that there be a short discussion here about adding the Youth Service Budget to the agenda of the next meeting

RESOLVED

- The Youth Service Budget will be added to the next agenda.
- Committee members will be informed of the time & date of the budget meeting on this item at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to enable attendance.
- The Youth Offer is part of the work-plan plan and as part of this Youth Forums & voluntary youth providers have been invited to attend and give their views.
- An expert on knife crime will be invited to a future meeting.
- The Youth Service Budget will be a theme for the interview of Cllr Victoria Mills, cabinet lead for Children's Services

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October were agreed as a correct record.

VIDEO - MINUTES

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SRTRS5CB3s&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bL_AiFSUHiJjV&index=2

5. AUTISM STRATEGY

Gwen Kennedy, NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Jay Strickland , Adult Social Care Director briefly introduced the strategy.

Members of the committee commented that on the whole the strategy reads very well and that they liked aspirations, and the short term and long term aims.

Officers were asked about the milestones and timescales, and when the implementation board going to form, and who will be on it.

Jay Stickland commented that there has been an initial meeting with NHS Southwark CCG, Education and Social Care. Peta Smith is working on establishing the board. There will be different standards: gold, silver & bronze. Our aspirations are high, but we will see what we can deliver within the available resources.

Gwen Kennedy said that the NHS Southwark CCG has adopted the strategy and the CCG will be taking this forward in their commissioning plans.

VIDEO - AUTISM STRATEGY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgxymPCpMoQ&index=3&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bLAIFSUHiJjV

6. MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW

6.1 Councillor Jasmine Ali explained that this item is part of a joint review of Mental Health by the Education & Children's Service committee and the Healthy Communities scrutiny committee. A recent meeting was held with officers and they explained that there are two documents: the Mental Health Social Care Review (enclosed with the agenda) and the Joint Mental Health Strategy, which is still in development. The Healthy Communities committee is looking at the strategy; this will be taken within the next three months.

6.2 David Mclean, coordinator & Rachel, youth representative, from Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations (SGTO) youth forum presented the SGTO Youth Forum tabled report.

6.3 David introduced the youth forum as a new initiative of SGTO, which has enabled many young people to get involved - both with the tenant & resident forums and with relevant issues affecting young people, such as Mental Health.

6.4 Rachel emphasised that Mental Health is a pervasive issue, that does not only effect people who are homeless or in the youth justice system. She said Mental Health is something that affects all of us to a certain extent. People within BME communities can be affected by the different values of mainstream society, and their heritage culture, and are also more vulnerable to economic and social policy shifts, such as the banning of fast food takeaways near schools. Whilst the policy has good aims low income deprived communities maybe particularly adversely affected. Policy shifts can negatively affect communities which have less representation and transferable skills. There is a need to make forums like

this affective so that people are listened to and don't experience a brick wall.

- 6.5 She stressed the importance of getting behind labels and giving tools to people.
- 6.6 David emphasised the needs of second generation immigrants. He also spoke about the need to link housing and wellbeing. He suggested asking questions such as do young have a place a study at home? He asked if a housing representative is on the Health & Wellbeing board, and commented that Homelessness is a key issue for young people experiencing difficult Mental Health. The committee chair commented that the Health & Wellbeing Board is led by the council; this means scrutiny is well placed to influence its composition.
- 6.7 David reported that the Youth Forum have recommended a youth steering board with representatives so the groups can look at issues organically. He said the SGTO Youth Forum & steering group want to be become a data rich research place. He reported that the lead cabinet member for children's service, Councillor Victoria Mills, has agreed this in in principle. He explained that the proposal is that the steering group would be a place to solve problems.
- 6.8 Rachael recommended that there is a need to look at cultures that could impact on good mental health: such as men not sharing problems, drug abuse and the academic pressure that young people experience.
- 6.9 Gwen Kennedy, CCG Commissioning Director, commented that hearing the voice of young people is very important. She reported that the Joint Mental Health strategy has been started, however the CCG and council do need to ensure the engagement process is in place to pick up those issues.
- 6.10 A committee member said that in a previous job he held it was rare to receive applications for support from people from the Chinese community as people tended to look after each other; however he had concerns about hidden issues. He commented that he did empathise with the difficulties of experiencing and negotiating dual cultures, and commented that communities that appear self contained can be harder to reach.
- 6.11 Rachel responded that young people are often more aware of emotions than older generations who were less liable to speak about their emotions. The inward facing issues are more complex - there is an issue of representation and visibility of BME communities in the wider community.
- 6.12 Members recommended hearing the voices of Southwark Young Carer and Speakerbox. David undertook to do that in the proposed steering group.
- 6.13 A committee member thanked Rachel & David for the presentation and the issues raised. He went on to comment that men not expressing emotions can be released in violence that affects wives and children. He said that some

communities, such as South Asian and Sierra Leone, can have a culture of not speaking out, can be very self-sustaining, but also not access services when there are problems.

VIDEO - MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aR23wOv7U0&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bLAIiFSUHiJjV&index=4

7. CABINET RESPONSES TO SCRUTINY REVIEWS INTO ADOPTION AND NARROWING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

The responses were noted.

VIDEO - CABINET RESPONSE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AFeD2YePc4&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bLAIiFSUHiJjV&index=5

8. FGM REVIEW UPDATE

RESOLVED

An Interim Report will be produced on work to date, while the longer term action research continues.

VIDEO FGM REVIEW UPDATE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDVPc99pkTM&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bLAIiFSUHiJjV&index=6

9. WORKPLAN

The Youth Service Budget will be added to the January meeting agenda.

VIDEO - WORKPLAN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEFoADu2FQE&list=PL_maFEOk7e9jCefOzDMB4bLAIiFSUHiJjV&index=7

