

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 5 September 2017 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Chair)
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada
Councillor Catherine Rose
Martin Brecknell
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove: Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

OFFICER SUPPORT: Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children's and Adults' Services
Rod Booth, Head of Mental Health and Wellbeing
Sharon Ogden: Safer Communities Team Manager, Housing and Modernisation
Stephen Douglass: Director of Communities, Housing and Modernisation
Julie Timbrell, scrutiny project manager

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

2.1 There were no urgent items of business.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

3. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 There were apologies for absence from Councillors Kath Whittam and James Okosun.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

VIDEO - OPENING OF THE MEETING

<https://bambuser.com/v/6882262>

5. MULTI- AGENCY KNIFE CRIME & KNIFE CARRYING ACTION PLAN

The chair invited the following to present on the Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan; circulated with the papers:

- Cllr Barrie Hargrove: Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety
- Sharon Ogden: Safer Communities Team Manager, Housing and Modernisation
- Stephen Douglass: Director of Communities, Housing and Modernisation

Cllr Barrie Hargrove - Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety explained that the Knife Crime and Knife Carrying strategy developed in part because of death of a 15 year old in Elephant & Castle in 2015. Community concern has grown over the years. He said that the police remain the lead on knife crime; however the safeguarding board lead persuaded me that the council could help with prevention. The Serious Case Review of Child U identified that better sharing of information might have led to a better outcome. The report's recommendations emphasised the importance of a partnership approach.

Schools are important partners in this; though it's difficult as some schools are concerned about reputation. The focus of the strategy is both knife crime and carrying, and getting across the message that young people are safer without a weapon. There is also a more difficult cohort who uses knives for fights and criminal purposes. Another issue is young people who are victims who do not feel safe or willing use the judicial process. Trust with police is important, and there are generational issues. Tackling knife crime has to be more than just enforcement, though that is important.

Stephen Douglass added that the Knife Crime and Knife Carrying action plan has

the involvement of young people. The youth council elections asked young people to identify issues of concern: knife crime was the top issue.

Sharon Ogden said that there a growing tendency is to see young people without criminal intent carrying knife for others reasons , such as perceived safety. There is concern that knife crime has become almost normalised for some young people.

The chair invited questions:

Members asked about schools and exclusions for knife crime. Exclusions are made to enforce the message that knife carrying is unacceptable. The difficulty is the negative impact on young people excluded. However there is a paramount need to keep children safe. Sharon said there are interventions that aim to not criminalise young people and but divert them from knife carrying - this about using wider community leaders.

A member said that there is additional MOPAC money to help with sharing information - officers said they will look at this. There is good work with hospitals now.

There was a question about the impact of knife crime on girls. There are links with between domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and knife carrying. The Mayors strategy was very brief on this.

Sharon said that there are services working with boys involved in gangs, and they do work with girlfriends, and the wider family dynamics and problems.

There was a discussion of the attractions and problems of hyper-masculinity: and how both work with boys and girls are needed to address this.

The issue of budgetary shortages in council and schools, particularly primary schools was discussed.

Primary Schools PTAs may want raise money to get Street Doctors for schools. There maybe the potential for lobbying to get healthy relationship programmes and other initiatives that prevent knife crime. Members asked if the council can set down a minimum expectation around information sharing with schools. The cabinet member welcomed this suggestion; however he cautioned that relationships on this issue are at a formative stage.

Members praised the action plan's ambitions. There was a suggestion that the plan might benefit from taking a longer time on the earlier mapping stage in order to prepare.

VIDEO - MULTI- AGENCY KNIFE CRIME & KNIFE CARRYING ACTION PLAN & SCRUTINY REVIEW SCOPE ON KNIFE CRIME

<https://bambuser.com/v/6882273>

6. DRAFT JOINT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The chair invited the following to present the paper enclosed:

- Rod Booth, Head of Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children's and Adults' Services

The committee were then invited to ask questions:

A member asked if young people with acute anxiety and depression are being attended too. He commented that he hears that they are not and that the Maudsley Hospital is cutting back on the out-patient provision for young people. Rod Booth commented that King's are improving acute treatment facilities and there is a national programme focused on returning young people back to local communities.

Officers were asked if there was sufficient funding and they answered that this is always going to be an issue. Southwark CCG is in a better financial position than many. It is moving towards a less medical model which has the potential to save money.

There was a discussion on training for school nurses so they understand mental health provision and if this would be sustained. Members asked if there were also plans to train teachers and involve SENCOS. Officers said there were.

There was a suggestion that a commitment to a well-being charter be included in contracts with schools and other partners the council commissions with.

VIDEO - DRAFT JOINT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

<https://bambuser.com/v/6882326>

<https://bambuser.com/v/6882350>

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW SCOPE ON KNIFE CRIME

The draft scope for a scrutiny in a day was briefly presented.

The use of the Damilola Taylor Centre as a venue was considered. There was a clarification that the Damilola Taylor Trust is separate and could be approached to contribute.

There was a discussion about if and how to engage schools. There could be duplication with a planned Safeguarding conference. It may be better to approach schools through the training the avenue looking at knife crime in the context of

safeguarding and healthy relationships. The scrutiny in a day event could be a community and young people focused event.

RESOLVED

The chair and scrutiny project manager will hold discussions with officers and come back with a plan based on this and the committee deliberations.

8. WORK-PLAN

VIDEO - WORK-PLAN

<https://bambuser.com/v/6882367>