

Council Assembly

Wednesday 25 March 2015

7.00 pm

Harris Academy Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

Supplemental Agenda No.2

List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
3.1. Themed Debate - Community Evidence		1 - 2
	Community evidence has been received from the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pecan (Southwark Foodbank)• Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau• Blackfriars Advice Centre	
4. Deputation Requests		3 - 5
	Deputation requests have been received from the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group of local residents in respect of establishing a council complaints advisory forum• CoolTan Arts• SE1 Parents.	
8.3. Council Calendar 2015/16		6
	Addendum report.	
9. Amendments		7 - 13

Contact

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Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Date: 24 March 2015

Item No. 3.1	Classification: Open	Date: 25 March 2015	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. On 16 September 2014 the council assembly business panel met to agree the themes for 2014/15 meetings of council assembly. The panel agreed that the theme for March council assembly should be 'welfare reform with an emphasis on financial inclusion.

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was midnight, Thursday, 19 March 2015.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are list in the order received below:
 1. Pecan (Southwark Foodbank)
 2. Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau Service
 3. Blackfriars Advice Centre.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.

Submissions

1. Pecan (Southwark Foodbank)

Pecan would like to make a presentation on the topic of the support Pecan is providing through the Southwark Foodbank and its other services to local people and in particular how the people Pecan supports have been affected by the welfare reform. Pecan is based at 121A Peckham High Street, London, SE15 5SE.

2. Southwark Citizen Advice Bureau Service

To provide a presentation on the impacts of welfare reform on the residents we see, and examples of how agencies can work together to provide effective support.

3. Blackfriars Advice Centre

To provide a presentation on the link between mental health and debt. From a meeting with practice managers of GP's surgeries in Southwark it is clear the demand for advice services is unprecedented and the emotional distress of welfare reform is having a damaging affect on the health and wellbeing of local people. The impact of the loss of legal aid funding, welfare reform and the reduction of wider services can be extremely detrimental for those with mental health and physical disabilities e.g. a negative ESA appeal causing a reduction in income or nil income (pending the outcome of the mandatory reconsideration notice) The lack of on going support to these individuals leads to spiralling debt and further mental health problems. We support the proposition to consider financial advice in health centres and welcome the opportunity to work with the CCG and across the political divide to ensure the best outcome for the most vulnerable and ask that the widest consideration be used to ensure that debt advice and health are not explored in isolation but in relation to welfare reform and wider social justice and health inequality issues.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager		
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	23 March 2015		
Key decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included	
Director of Legal Services	No	No	
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No	
Cabinet Member	No	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		23 March 2015	

Item No. 4	Classification: Open	Date: 25 March 2015	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order. All deputations have been informed that they are not guaranteed to be heard and the decision will be made by council assembly as part of the programme motion.
3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide:
 - to receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
 - that the deputation not be received; *or*
 - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Other deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests were received on issues other than the subject of the themed section of the meeting. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.

1. Deputation request from a group of local residents

The deputation request states:

The Local Government Ombudsman has set up the LGO Advisory Forum and invited a number of former complainants to become members of that forum. I

myself (Mr. Mick Barnard) am a participant in the LGO Reference Group and have just submitted my first contribution. The remit of the forum is to establish "what the LGO does well" and "what the LGO needs to improve most". The deputation hopes to pursue members that Southwark Council might consider taking a similar approach to the Local Government Ombudsman and set up its own advisory forum along the same lines as the LGO Advisory Forum with regard to the council complaints policy and associated procedures. The deputation would like to take this opportunity to explain how, why and when the LGO process began, what has been achieved so far and how this could help Southwark Council to deliver on certain elements contained in its promises of "Fairer Future Principles" and "Fairer Future for all Vision" and the "Our Values" element of the "Council Plan". Additional information can be found on the Local Government Ombudsman website which contains the minutes of the LGO Advisory Forum's last meeting on 21 November 2014.

2. Deputation from CoolTan Arts

The deputation request states:

The deputation wishes to inform councillors of the issues currently faced by people with mental distress of whom there are many in the borough.

Currently CoolTan works with 2,500 people a year. Most of our participants are telling us how afraid they are of the changes which are about to come into force on 1 April. We know these changes are trends rather than political. The universal credit will happen, personalisation is here to stay therefore it is critical that we work with the council bringing our solutions to help people stay well ensuring that more expensive interventions are not necessary.

3. SE1 Parents

The deputation states:

There aren't enough secondary schools in our area. Demand for places outstrips supply, with the result that many local children are forced to travel long distances to secondary schools across south east London and north of the river. Demographic change means that spaces will become even more limited in the future and the problem will get worse with primary schools taking on bulge years and expanding.

Because of this, local parents have started a non-political, grass roots campaign for a new secondary school in North Southwark. As there are already several same-sex and religious schools in the area, parents are proposing that this new school increase local options by being mixed gender and non-denominational. We have identified a possible site for the new school as the old Southwark Fire Station, on Southwark Bridge Road. We are seeking the support of the council assembly in this endeavour.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager		
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	23 March 2015		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Title	Comments sought	Comments included	
Director of Legal Services	No	No	
Strategic Director Finance & Corporate Services	No	No	
Cabinet Member	No	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		23 March 2015	

ADDENDUM REPORT

ITEM 8.3 – COUNCIL CALENDAR 2015/16 (see page 123 - 137 of the main agenda)

Note: The following Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates were added to the calendar in error and should be considered deleted:

- Monday 13 July 2015
- Monday 7 March 2016.

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2 – MEMBERS MOTION ON THE THEME: WELFARE REFORM WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION (see pages 1 - 3 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Anood Al-Samerai

Delete all and insert:

1. Council assembly recognises that the coalition government inherited the third largest budget deficit in the European Union and that benefit and tax credit spending increased by 62% in real terms between 1997 and 2010 under the previous Labour government.
2. Council assembly notes that the previous Labour government's failure to support new council house building resulted in the housing benefit bill rising by over a third in real terms between 1997 and 2010.
3. Council assembly notes that nationally there were half a million fewer people unemployed in December 2014 compared with the year before and that in Southwark:
 - Jobseeker Allowance claimants have reduced by a third compared with 2010
 - over 6,000 apprenticeships have been started since 2010 - more than double the number created in the equivalent time period before 2010.
4. Council assembly also notes that the Liberal Democrats in government have made work pay by increasing the personal tax allowance to £10,000, which has helped 24 million working people keep more of what they earn and saves a worker on the average income £700 per year. Council assembly further notes that in Southwark 131,500 residents have seen their income tax cut and 15,000 have been taken out of paying tax altogether.
5. Council assembly welcomes the introduction of the triple-lock pension guarantee introduced by the Liberal Democrats, which means that the basic state pension is now at its highest share of average earnings, and notes that under the previous Labour government pensioners received increases as small as 75p per week.
6. Council assembly welcomes the Liberal Democrats policies on welfare reform, particularly:
 - raising the personal tax allowance to £12,500
 - increasing free childcare even further, to 20 hours per week from the end of maternity leave to the start of school
 - reforming the benefits sanctions system by introducing a 'yellow card' system.

7. Council assembly notes that Labour Members of Parliament:
 - introduced the Under-Occupancy Charge for private tenants in receipt of housing benefit while in government
 - voted in favour of the cap to the overall spend on welfare recently
 - supports the coalition's household benefits cap and is considering reducing it in certain regions.

8. Recognising that the purpose of assembly motions is to ensure that the council takes action, council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to:
 - further increase the number of apprenticeships available locally and ensure that jobs and apprenticeships for Southwark residents are secured through potential major infrastructure projects such as the Bakerloo Line extension and the construction of Rotherhithe Pier and Brunel Bridge
 - take immediate steps and invest council funding to support parents with childcare costs
 - support the Liberal Democrats' national campaign to exempt disabled people with adapted homes and people who are actively seeking to move to smaller properties from the under-occupancy charge
 - improve the mutual exchange system to support families in finding homes that meet their needs and size criteria and reduce the housing benefit bill
 - ensure that 1 in 3 homes in new developments is affordable, so that housing benefit is not paid out to private landlords.

ITEM 5.1 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: FINANCIAL ADVICE IN HEALTH CENTRES (see page 11 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor David Noakes

Seconded: Councillor Eliza Mann

Insert new paragraphs 5 and 6:

5. Council assembly notes that many user-led local mental health services which give patients holistic support, including financial advice, are currently struggling and at risk of closure because of a number of factors including:
 - a move away from block contracts and a traditional day centre model to personal budgets and recovery-focused day activities
 - the recent decision by the CCG, as the lead commissioner, to commission mental health services with a national provider, instead of a Southwark-based consortium of mental health voluntary sector providers
 - the complexity of the Section 75 pooled budget arrangements.
6. Council assembly notes that changes to local mental health services, including financial advice for users, need to be managed and supported carefully and therefore calls on cabinet to:
 - urgently commission a report laying out the financial stability and viability of the local voluntary sector mental health services in Southwark and bring a report back to the next cabinet meeting
 - explore one-off or ongoing transitional funding prior to the introduction of community and wellbeing grants in October to support long-established and trusted local services, providing high-quality debt- and income-maximisation advice or welfare benefit casework services in Southwark, in order to avoid any gaps in service provision and allow these services to develop alternative funding sources to make them viable.

ITEM 5.2 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTHWARK
(see pages 11 – 12 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Tom Flynn

Seconded: Councillor Catherine Dale

In paragraph 2, **delete** 'further' and 'Liberal Democrats in'; after 'notes that the' **insert** 'coalition government has taken some steps to improve mental health services:'

In paragraph 2, bullet point 1, **delete** 'and committed to put mental health treatment on a par with physical health'.

After paragraph 2, **insert** new paragraphs 3 to 7:

3. Council assembly notes, however, that despite the government's commitment to put mental health treatment on a par with physical health, mental health trusts in England have seen their budgets fall by more than 8% in real terms, equivalent to almost £600m, and spending on children's mental health services in England has fallen by more than 6% in real terms, equivalent to nearly £50m, since 2010.
4. Council assembly condemns the government's cuts to spending on children's mental health services, which have led to increased waiting times and children being treated on adult psychiatric wards or having to travel hundreds of miles across the country to get the help they need.
5. Council assembly also notes that the government's cuts to local authority budgets which have led to a £90m shortfall in funding for social care.
6. Council assembly welcomes the extensive work undertaken by the council and the CCG to tackle stigma, raise awareness about mental health and promote wellbeing in Southwark, including:
 - Setting up a Parity of Esteem Programme Board chaired by the GP clinical lead for mental health, to review the extent of inequality amongst people with mental health problems
 - Providing training for teachers and head teachers to recognise and support children and young people with mental health issues in schools
 - Working with the Time to Change campaign
 - Providing community grants for small organisations to promote wellbeing with their clients/members
 - Commissioning Mental Health First Aid courses for voluntary and community sector
 - Adopting the Mayor of London's Healthy Workplace Charter to minimise the risk of mental distress in the workplace and promoting to all employers in Southwark.

7. Council assembly welcomes Labour's national commitment to provide fairer access to mental health services, including ensuring all professional NHS staff receive mental health training and changing the NHS Constitution to give people the right to psychological therapies for mental health problems like anxiety and depression, helping to give mental health the same priority as physical health.

In paragraph 3 of the motion, bullet point 1, **delete** 'take action to ensure an appropriate advocacy service is available for all Southwark residents with mental health issues' and **insert** 'extend advocacy services available for Southwark residents with mental health issues.'

In paragraph 3 of the motion, bullet point 3, **delete** 'alongside real term increases in each year of the current administration' and **insert** 'and review funding for mental health services each year'.

Renumber paragraphs accordingly.

Amended motion to read:

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - mental health issues will affect 1 in 4 people at some point in their lives and that 70,000 people in Southwark will suffer from mental health issues
 - mental health issues can shorten life expectancy by fifteen to twenty years
 - people with mental health issues are more likely to experience homelessness, and anxiety and depression have been linked to overcrowded and unfit housing.
2. Council assembly notes that the coalition government has taken some steps to improve mental health services:
 - invested £400 million in early support for people with mental health issues
 - introduced maximum waiting times for talking therapies and the Crisis Care Concordat to ensure nobody experiencing psychosis is ever turned away from accident & emergency
 - pledged extra investment for new inpatient beds, better case management and improved access to mental health care for children and young people
 - helped fund the Time to Change campaign which challenges mental health stigma and discrimination
 - called on all NHS trusts to aim for a 'Zero Suicide' policy and established a government-wide mental health taskforce.
3. Council assembly notes, however, that despite the government's commitment to put mental health treatment on a par with physical health, mental health trusts in England have seen their budgets fall by more than 8% in real terms, equivalent to almost £600m, and spending on children's mental health services in England has fallen by more than 6% in real terms, equivalent to nearly £50m, since 2010.

4. Council assembly condemns the government's cuts to spending on children's mental health services, which have led to increased waiting times and children being treated on adult psychiatric wards or having to travel hundreds of miles across the country to get the help they need.
5. Council assembly also notes that the government's cuts to local authority budgets which have led to a £90m shortfall in funding for social care.
6. Council assembly welcomes the extensive work undertaken by the council and the CCG to tackle stigma, raise awareness about mental health and promote wellbeing in Southwark, including:
 - Setting up a Parity of Esteem Programme Board chaired by the GP clinical lead for mental health, to review the extent of inequality amongst people with mental health problems
 - Providing training for teachers and head teachers to recognise and support children and young people with mental health issues in schools
 - Working with the Time to Change campaign
 - Providing community grants for small organisations to promote wellbeing with their clients/members
 - Commissioning mental health first aid courses for voluntary and community sector
 - Adopting the Mayor of London's Healthy Workplace Charter to minimise the risk of mental distress in the workplace and promoting to all employers in Southwark.
7. Council assembly welcomes Labour's national commitment to provide fairer access to mental health services, including ensuring all professional NHS staff receive mental health training and changing the NHS Constitution to give people the right to psychological therapies for mental health problems like anxiety and depression, helping to give mental health the same priority as physical health.
8. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - extend advocacy services available for Southwark residents with mental health issues
 - consider the appointment of a Southwark Mental Health Champion to act as a link between the council, clients and the different agencies working in mental health
 - ensure that mental health services receive their fair share of public health funding and review funding for mental health services each year
 - ensure each council department deals with residents with mental health issues consistently and with a supportive and sympathetic approach
 - improve the promotion of counselling services available for staff experiencing mental health or emotional issues.

ITEM 5.4 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: IMPROVE SERVICES AT LONDON BRIDGE STATION (see pages 13 - 14 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Damien O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Hamish McCallum

In paragraph 8 after 'customer satisfaction', **delete** the remainder of paragraph.

Insert new paragraph 9:

Council assembly welcomes the government announcement in July 2013 which will allow some commuter rail services out of Liverpool Street station to be managed by Transport for London. Council assembly further notes that it was London Liberal policy in 2012 for Transport for London to run commuter rail services into the capital.

Insert remainder of former paragraph 8 as new paragraph 10:

Council assembly therefore calls on the Secretary of State to allow Transport for London to run all rail services in South East London in order to have a properly integrated transport system.

Insert new paragraph 11:

Council assembly also notes that the long-term improvements at London Bridge should not just be for commuters, but also improve and green the local environment around the station for residents. Council therefore calls on the cabinet to work with Team London Bridge, Network Rail and Transport for London to ensure:

- that the new public realm around the station is of equal priority to the development of the station
- that no opportunity is missed to reduce local traffic and air pollution to make the area more pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly
- support for local independent and creative businesses.

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NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
All Councillors	1 each	Others	1
Group Offices	2	Elizabeth Olive, Audit Commission, Ground Floor, Tooley Street	
Aine Gallagher, Labour Group Office	1		
Niko Baar, Liberal Democrat Group Office	1		
Officers	3		
Eleanor Kelly	1		
Doreen Forrester-Brown	1		
Ian Millichap	1		
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		Last Updated: February 2015	
		Total:	90