



## Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset,  
DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 15 March 2017

**Present:**

Pauline Batstone (Chairman)  
Steve Butler and Toni Coombs

Officer Attending: Sara Tough (Director for Children's Services), Paul Beecroft (Communications Officer (Internal)), Patrick Myers (Assistant Director - Design and Development), Michael Potter, Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance), Sally Wernick (Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Quality - Adults), Tom Wilkinson (Children's Services and Interim Chief Pensions and Investments Manager) and Fiona King (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

For certain items, as appropriate

Andrew Kerby. North Dorset District Council.

(Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on: **Thursday, 6 July 2017.**)

### Apologies for Absence

14 Apologies for absence were received from Beryl Ezzard, Susan Jefferies and Mike Lovell.

### Code of Conduct

15 There were no declarations by members of disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

### Minutes

16 The minutes from the meeting held on 19 January 2017 were agreed and signed.

### Public Participation

#### 17 Public Speaking

There were no public questions received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(1).

There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

#### Petitions

There were no petitions received at the meeting in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

### Outcome of Ofsted SEND Inspection

18 The Director for Children's Services advised members that the report from Ofsted regarding the recent SEND Inspection had yet to be published. Officers had responded to the draft report in respect of accuracy and were now awaiting publication details.

The Director highlighted particular issues that had been raised during the Inspection including the delays on the completion of Early Health Care Plans (EHCPs). In the

light of this the Committee had received a report on this at its last meeting on 19 January 2017. Also the Joint Strategy was highlighted by Ofsted as an issue and the Director confirmed that work on this would be given priority. A particular area of concern for Ofsted was also that parents felt they were not receiving enough feedback and were also not aware of the Local Offer, so it was felt more work was needed in this area. The Director assured members that many strengths had also been identified during the Inspection.

Following a concern from a member about the relationship with and support for schools in respect of what they delivered, the Director advised that overall Ofsted had very little comment in that specific regard, however, they did mention that an area to be strengthened was that of quality assurance. More work would be done to support schools with annual reviews but local or specific issues had not been reflected in the report.

### **Noted**

#### **Causes and Forces of Road Traffic Collisions**

19 Members considered a report by the Project Engineer from the Collision Reduction and Traffic Engineering Team which explored the factors that contributed to road traffic collisions in order to understand the 'story' behind the population indicator 'Number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's roads'.

The Project Engineer picked out the key points from the report and highlighted areas that he felt could be influenced. Members' attention was drawn to section 6.3 of the report which included the key lines of enquiry to help aid members' discussions.

One member commented that he was not content with the killed and seriously injured (KSI) targets and felt the problem appeared to be with the user groups, he felt it would be better to look at accident blackspots to ensure they didn't happen again. He was concerned about children being knocked over by lorries/cars. The Project Engineer advised that there was a lot of monitoring and data available on the different highways and noted that there was a lot of work being done in schools to reinforce the road safety messages.

Following a discussion about KSI targets, one member noted that there had been a lot of work done to address accident blackspots but she felt it was now more about ensuring that the road network was safe. She was particularly concerned about driver behaviour and especially elderly drivers and felt more work with GPs and lobbying of MPs was needed. The Project Engineer advised that the CCG were keen to see what they could do to help in this respect with their work with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Assistant Director – Design and Development advised members that in respect of the Children's agenda he had just received the health profiles for Dorset which noted that there were 47 children killed or seriously injured between 2013/15 and questioned why Dorset was higher than the average for England. The Project Engineer undertook to look into this further outside of the meeting.

In response to a question about accidents on trunk roads, the Project Manager advised that these tended to vary year on year but accidents on trunk roads did tend to be more serious due to the higher speeds and the type of traffic on these roads. It was also noted that there was no real increase across the summer months as a result of holidaymakers.

The Group Manager for Governance and Assurance reminded members that targets were there simply to provide a baseline upon which to measure.

One member drew attention to the contributory factor analysis section in the report which showed that the top three factors all related to driver error.

The Director suggested members consider the top 2/3 areas they wanted to concentrate on and to then show as an authority what difference has been made.

It was suggested that the physical conditions of the highways and people being distracted appeared to be the two main areas. The Group Manager for Governance and Assurance noted that educational awareness was key and felt there needed to be a discussion with the Police and other agencies in respect of national campaigns. The Project Engineer made reference to the 'No Excuse' campaign which had a multi-agency approach and awareness of it was very high. It might be worth considering raising the profile of this campaign again. Early intervention was highlighted as key as although there were initial costs these would be less than the costs incurred by accidents/incidents.

The Director suggested that a small member task group be formed to focus on 2/3 tasks and felt that a 'turn the curve' exercise would be helpful.

The Chairman agreed that following the elections in May 2017 this could be picked up at the first meeting of the new Committee.

### **Resolved**

1. That following the elections a small task and finish group be convened, to include a lead member, lead officer (Project Engineer) and the Member Champion for Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA).
2. That a scoping report be prepared prior to the formation of the new task and finish group and be presented to the first meeting of the new Committee on 6 July 2017.

### **Work Programme**

20 The Committee considered its Work Programme and gave consideration to the inclusion of a number of items which had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Group Manager for Governance and Assurance advised members that it would be for the new Committee, following the elections in May 2017, to decide what it wished to focus its attention on. He made reference to the 3 measures/outcomes that would be helpful for the new Committee to focus on.

The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Quality – Adults, presented members with a scoping proposal for the Inquiry day relating to the key challenges in Domestic Abuse. One member felt it would be helpful to invite a representative from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to the event.

The Director highlighted the need to include the impact on children under the aims of the day and for Children's Services to be a key contributor to the day. In this respect one member suggested listing a generational cycle as an outcome to be included.

The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Quality – Adults advised members that she aimed to meet with the Chairman and colleagues from Children's Services prior to the Inquiry Day to ensure all areas were covered. It was planned to be a full day and would include a working lunch. The Director suggested that Mary Taylor, Designated Safeguarding Manager – Children's, should also be part of these discussions and undertook to forward the information on to her. She added that the Children in Care Council had young people on there who would be prepared to talk about their experiences which would be very helpful for members to hear.

One member made reference to a recent Inquiry Day he had attended for the People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee which he had found very useful and felt it was important to advertise it early to ensure as many members attended as possible.

The Strategic Lead for Safeguarding and Quality – Adults also provided members with an update on the progress of the newly formed Pan Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategic group and their action plan.

**Resolved**

That the Committee's Work Programme be updated accordingly.

**Questions from County Councillors**

21 No questions were asked by members under Standing Order 20(2).

**Exempt Business**

22 **Resolved**

That in accordance with Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting in relation to the business specified in minute 23 as it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

**Report from the Community Safety Partnership - Anti-Social Behaviour**

23 The Committee considered an exempt report which was originally presented to the Dorset Community Safety Partnership and covered two actions for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Delivery Plan. An overview of some of the youth related concerns/hotspots was also provided for members' information.

The Chairman from the CSP, Cllr Kerby, attended and welcomed any discussions to ensure people received the support they needed.

Following a discussion about anti-social behaviour members felt it would be helpful to have further knowledge and understanding about how the Police recorded specific incidents. Cllr Kerby undertook to arrange a meeting outside of the Committee with a Police presence to help in this regard.

One member suggested it would be interesting to see if there was any evidence that any increase in anti-social behaviour was as a result of the closing of youth centres. The Director commented that her service was now reaching more children as a result of targeted youth provision and agreed that the data from the CSP and data from relevant directorates needed to join up. This would form part of the Family Partnership Zones work and members would receive further information shortly regarding the geography of the zones.

Following a discussion about a 'community trigger' the Assistant Director – Design and Development advised it could be about a small number of people in an area committing a lot of anti-social behaviour incidents. Cllr Kerby advised that the CSP were looking for support from mental health colleagues and possibly colleagues from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

One member highlighted the transition from care in Children's Services to care in Adults Services was improving but some issues still tended to arise. The Director commented it was more about understanding people's individual stories, a starting point in order to get some greater analysis in respect of trends about what was being described. She likened it to a 'turning the curve' exercise and activity through the

CSP would be a good starting point.

The Chairman of the CSP undertook to report back to this Committee for further support at a later date.

**Resolved**

1. Cllr Kerby to convene a meeting to include the Police to help with the understanding of the recording of anti-social behaviour incidents.
2. Cllr Kerby to report back to the Safeguarding and Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further support at a later date.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.45 am