



People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ on Wednesday, 11 October 2017.

Present:

David Walsh (Chairman),
Graham Carr-Jones, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Byron Quayle, Clare Sutton and William Trite.

Members Attending

Deborah Croney (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills)
Daryl Turner (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for the Natural and Built Environment).

Officer Attending: Helen Coombes (Transformation Programme Lead for the Adult and Community Forward Together Programme), Steve Hedges (Group Finance Manager), Mark Taylor (Group Manager - Governance and Assurance) and Helen Whitby (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

For certain items, as appropriate

John Alexander (Senior Assurance Manager - Performance), Matthew Piles (Service Director - Economy) and David Walsh (Economy & Enterprise Team Leader Economy).

(Notes: 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 People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Wednesday, 10 January 2018.**)

Apologies for Absence

42 Apologies for absence were received from Derek Beer, Katharine Garcia and Ros Kayes.

Code of Conduct

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

Minutes

44 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017 were confirmed and signed.

Progress on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings

45 The Committee considered a report by the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme which updated members on progress with items considered at the last meeting.

The Chairman referred to the duplication of items with those on the Progress on Work Programme report later on the agenda. The only item which did not appear later was that of the Dorset Syrian Refugee Programme where a follow up report was expected, but no date had been set for this.

Following discussion it was agreed that officers be asked to provide a brief update on the current situation by email so that members could decide whether any further action was needed.

Resolved

That officers provide a brief update on the current situation by email so that members could decide whether any further action was needed.

Public Participation

46 **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).

Progress on Work Programme

47 The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Director for Children, Adults and Communities which provided an update on progress against the review/scrutiny areas that they had previously identified as being required. The progress update included whether the scope was fully developed and, where applicable, views from officers about timings of reviews to be undertaken.

The Committee considered each scrutiny area individually as follows:-

Dorset Education Performance 2016

It had previously been agreed that an inquiry day be held but no date had been set for this. Members noted that performance figures for 2017 were now available and the suggested half day review with stakeholders would provide an opportunity for a discussion on how performance could be improved. It was agreed that other members should be given the opportunity to take part in the review.

Resolved

1. That a half day review be undertaken before Christmas with stakeholders to discuss how performance could be improved.
2. That the Chairman, as Lead Member, and the Assistant Director - Prevention and Partnerships, as Lead Officer, would progress the inquiry day.
3. That other members be given the opportunity to take part in the review.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Budget

It was noted that the Schools Forum would be considering a report on the budget on 20 October 2017. The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman were members of a group convened by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills to look at SEN delivery. In order not to duplicate effort, he suggested that this matter be referred to this Group with he and the vice-Chairman reporting back on progress.

Resolved

That this item be referred to the Group on SEND delivery.

Workforce Capacity

It was reported that work was ongoing across Children's and Adult and Community Services. The Lead Officers would provide an update on progress and key findings in the New Year.

Resolved

That an update be provided in the New Year.

Community Transport

At the recent member scrutiny training it had become evident that a number of Committees had expressed an interest in scrutinising aspects of community transport and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was tasked to ensure that there

was no duplication. Lead Members had recently met with Lead Officers when it was agreed that an Inquiry Day would be held in February 2018 and a list of invitees drawn up. All members would be invited to take part.

Noted

Mental Health

The Vice-Chairman reported that the workshop scheduled to have taken place on 10 October 2017 had been cancelled as it clashed with another event. This would now take place in November 2017 and would involve the Clinical Commissioning Group, key professional staff and service users. A scoping document had been provided for members following publication of the agenda.

Members noted that the workshop would also take into account the review of Children and Adults Mental Health Services by the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee and members' views about children's mental health and access to services and service provision.

Noted

Delayed Transfers of Care

It was suggested that in March 2018 the Committee be provided with information on performance over the winter months so the Committee could decide whether any further scrutiny was needed.

With regard to the Clinical Services Review announced by the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and whether this would place an additional burden on the Adult Social Care Budget, the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme explained that any capacity lost in acute or community hospitals in the longer term would need to be matched by increased investment in adult social care. Discussions with local NHS providers about future funding arrangements were due to start in November 2017.

Resolved

That a report on Delayed Transfers of Care be provided in March 2018.

Race and Hate Crime

The Lead Member and Lead Officer had completed a scoping report and an inquiry day was expected to be held early in the New Year.

The Committee were reminded that following the Brexit referendum an increase in race and hate crime had been experienced both nationally and locally and this had prompted the review. The Committee had not received any recent information on incidents although it seemed that the surge had not continued. When the prioritisation model was applied it indicated that the review was of a lower priority and the Committee considered whether it should therefore proceed. Given that it was not known how far arrangements for the half day review had progressed, officers were asked to provide recent information on incidents and how far arrangements for the review had progressed before the Committee confirmed whether the review should proceed.

Members were also reminded that part of the original concern about race and hate crime were incidents involving those with disabilities. However, they noted that this aspect was dealt with by the Safeguarding Boards and the Community Safety Partnership.

Resolved

That officers provide recent information on race and hate crime incidents and

progress with arrangements for the review so that a decision could be taken as to whether the review should proceed.

Social Isolation

The Chairman reported that a schedule of meetings had been arranged to progress the review.

Noted

A concern was expressed that with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees now have a cross-cutting responsibility there was a danger of duplication. The Chairman reminded members that it was the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to ensure that this did not happen.

Work Programme

48 The Committee considered a report by the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme which detailed the updated work programme for 2017-18 and were asked to request additional items through the Chairman.

The Chairman suggested that, as homelessness appeared to be on the increase, a review be undertaken. This was agreed. Councillor Clare Sutton would be Lead Member and officers were asked to send her relevant data so that she and the Strategic Commissioning Manager could complete the scoping report. Councillors Tritte and Walsh would also be involved. Members noted that a count of homeless people was to be undertaken in November 2017 and that better data would be available after this date.

The Committee considered items previously identified for potential review and concluded:-

- Housing - was being progress through the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this item could be deleted from the Work Programme
- Adoption and Fostering - that this be re-considered in six months' time when recent changes had bedded in
- Elderly Care - the review of the cost and quality of care had addressed this and this item could be deleted from the Work Programme.

Resolved

That the Work Programme be amended to reflect the above changes and those contained in minute 47.

Implications of Brexit for Dorset County Council

49 The Committee considered a report by the Service Director - Economy which set out how Brexit was likely to affect the Council and proposed how the Council should dedicate its resources to planning, preparing for, and shaping future policy.

The Service Director - Economy explained that the report would also be considered by the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2017. It sought members' views on the allocation of resources in preparation for Brexit in order to minimise risk and maximise opportunities for the Council to further corporate aims and shared objectives. It suggested that a Brexit Advisory Group be established to progress this and that such a Group should include member involvement.

The Economy and Enterprise Team Leader then briefly outlined scoping work undertaken, Lead Officers identified for the various elements and highlighted the need to focus effort on opportunities to influence outcomes from the Dorset perspective. He also informed the Committee that the Council had representation on a national

working group looking at the implications of Brexit.

The Committee discussed the report and in particular non-UK citizens working in the UK, the possibility of the future workforce coming from commonwealth countries, the need for a consistent approach to be taken across the whole County and, as the whole country had the same issues and required the same answers, a plea for no duplication of effort. Members supported the establishment of a Brexit Advisory Group which included member representation. They also asked that Cllr Andrew Parry be appointed to the Group. In order to take this matter forward and to reduce duplication, the Committee referred this matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to progress.

Resolved

1. That this matter be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to progress.
2. That the establishment of a Brexit Advisory Group be supported.
3. That its membership include elected members.
4. That Cllr Andrew Parry be appointed to sit on the Group.

Outcomes Focused Monitoring Report, October 2017

50 The Committee considered a report by the Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme which was the first monitoring report against the new Corporate Plan. It included Performance measures by which the County Council could measure the contribution and impact of its own services and activities on the Corporate Plan's four outcomes and risk management information.

The Senior Assurance Manager presented the report highlighting that it now included an analysis of the Council's contribution towards Corporate Plan outcomes and measured the impact on services and activities. He then gave a detailed presentation as a means of illustrating this. He explained that more detailed information was now available to support scrutiny work and asked members to contact him if there were any areas they believed to be priorities for further development. Value for money information would be provided for the January 2018 meeting.

The Transformation Programme Lead for Adult and Community Forward Together Programme welcomed members challenging identified performance measures particularly where activities were being undertaken but no impact being made. She asked that members provide feedback by 30 October 2017 so that work could start on information for the next meeting.

Members found the report both interesting and helpful and welcomed the opportunity to comment.

Resolved

That members send comments on the report and its content to the Senior Assurance Manager by 30 October 2017..

Questions from County Councillors

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

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.35 am