

PEOPLE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2024

Present: Cllrs Toni Coombs (Chair), Louie O'Leary (Vice-Chair), Laura Beddow, Bridget Bolwell, Sally Holland, Chris Kippax, Jane Somper and Carl Woode

Present remotely: Cllr Robin Legg

Apologies: Cllr Claudia Webb

Also present: Cllr Craig Monks, Cllr Steve Robinson and Cllr Gill Taylor

Also present remotely: Cllr Clare Sutton

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Amanda Davis (Corporate Director for Education and Learning), Paul Dempsey (Executive Director of People - Children), Julia Ingram (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care Operations), Andy Frost (Service Manager for Community Safety), Harriet Hallett (BI and Performance Business Partner - Corporate Strategy, Performance and Sustainability), Sarah Howard (Deputy Director of Place), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Rachel Partridge (Assistant Director of Public Health), Chris Swain (Risk Management and Reporting Officer) and Eleanor Turner (Democratic and Electoral Services Apprentice)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children) and Lisa Reid (Corporate Director for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Families)

1. **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received by Cllr Claudia Webb.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr Somper, seconded by Cllr O'Leary.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2024 be confirmed and signed.

4. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

5. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

6. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

7. **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman updated the committee on work that had taken place prior to the committee meeting. This included that the Chairman responded to two NHS Quality Accounts on behalf of the committee, following email comments from committee members. The Committee was content with email liaison being used for responding to future Quality Accounts.

Following consideration by the Place and Resources Overview Committee, the Chairman requested that future Cost of Living Support monitoring reports are considered by the People and Health Scrutiny Committee. These reports had been added to the committee's work programme.

8. **Community Safety Annual Scrutiny Report**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Housing introduced the report and outlined the council's community safety responsibilities. The Service Manager for Community Safety highlighted the four key community safety strategies. The plans were informed by a needs assessment and the Community Safety Plan was updated on an annual basis. There were two new requirements for tackling domestic abuse and serious violence, which had been integrated with the current community safety arrangements.

Members asked questions related to community safety. The following points and responses to questions were raised:

- The level of safe accommodation was what was needed for the level of demand. Some victims would only want to move into emergency safe accommodation as a last resort.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had responsibility for setting policing priorities, however joint work took place with the PCC on community safety issues.

- It was a statutory responsibility for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to consider the PCC's priorities and vice versa when developing their plans. There was good synergy between current plans.
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, and Skills explained that the Safeguarding Families Together programme provided early intervention for domestic abuse, substance misuse and poor mental health. The programme would need further funding in the next financial year, so it needed to be considered during a refresh of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- In relation to support for adults with complex needs, there were different services which were commissioned which could deal with these complexities, such as victim support.
- Operational Adult Social Care, were developing their connection with the Community Safety Partnership, in particular, ensuring there was an understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on older people and throughout life.

Members also asked questions on the reducing reoffending element of the report. The following points were raised:

- The strategies were reviewed annually; however, the council would be able to respond to new initiatives.
- The main factors causing reoffending included accommodation, education, relationships, drugs and alcohol.
- It was felt important for young people to be in school and not give permanent exclusions where possible.
- Most first-time entrants into the criminal justice system had a special education need, so there was a need to ensure that speech and language needs were met.
- Officers had been planning for the prisoner early release scheme. The numbers were less than expected and they were not high-risk cases.

Members requested an update on the prisoner early release scheme at the committee meeting in November.

That members receive further information and training on dealing with ward issues concerning community safety, domestic abuse and substance misuse.

9. **Performance Scrutiny**

The committee reviewed the performance dashboard. There were 3 performance items raised in an informal review of the dashboard prior to the meeting. Officers provided written responses to these items. The items were:

- Number of special educational needs (SEND) tribunals against the authority.
- Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks.
- Number of affordable homes delivered.

There were 8 performance indicators that showed as red on the performance dashboard. Officers responded to members' questions on these items. The following points were covered:

- The council set higher aspirational targets for education and attendance, compared to similar local authorities.
- The targets are reviewed when necessary.
- In relation to permanent school exclusions, there would be attempts to make a managed move to a different school, so pupils at risk of permanent exclusion could be in education elsewhere.
- In relation to outstanding care act assessments, there were two points of triage before completing a formal assessment. This ensured that support could be given quickly where there was high risk.
- There was a combination of demand, more complex cases, and improvements needed to the service for Care Act assessments.

10. **Committee's Work Programme and Executive Forward Plans**

The Chairman outlined the committee's work programme. The committee would need to work more outside of formal committee meetings in order to work effectively.

Senior officers suggested items from their directorates which could be added to the work programme.

The committee met informally after the meeting closed to develop the work programme.

11. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.32 am

Chairman

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