

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 2 - County Hall, Durham** on **Monday 7 January 2019** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Bainbridge, J Charlton, J Considine, R Crute, C Hampson, E Mavin, J Nicholson, A Patterson, K Thompson and J Turnbull

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Balls

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Chief Fire Officer S Errington

Also Present:

Councillors G Darkes and S Quinn

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Avery, D Hall, L Kennedy, H Liddle, J Maitland, J Stephenson, D Stoker, C Wilson, Mr A J Cooke and Chief Superintendent A Green.

2 Substitute Members

There were no Substitute Members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 2 November 2018 were agreed as a correct records and signed by the Chairman.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee noted that in relation to Item 7 of the minutes, the Committee's response to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDP) had been submitted to the Chair of the SDP, Assistant Chief Constable Dave Orford. He added that information as regards open water safety and had been circulated for Member's information. It was added that in respect of Item 8, an invitation from the Chief Executive, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company to observe their work had been given, with the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to look to make arrangements.

The Committee were reminded that in terms of Road Safety set out at Item 9, additional information had been circulated, and also information in relation to uninsured driver numbers. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer concluded noting the links to the reports from the Police and Crime Panel held on 22 October 2018 had been circulated to the Committee.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Turnbull declared an interest in Item 8, Integrated Risk Management Plan as a Member of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

Mr S Errington, Co-opted Member and Chief Fire Officer, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) had submitted a report, set out at Item 8, relating to the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Consultation.

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes). The articles included: Police campaigns relating to drink driving the morning after a night out, linking to the work programme of the Committee; and linking to open water safety, a recent partnership campaign led by Durham County Council (DCC), Durham Constabulary and the CDDFRS urging festival goers to take care and not to risk drinking and drowning.

The Chairman asked as regards any open water incidents, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted he would find out.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service Update

The Chairman introduced the Public Health Strategic Manager, Jane Sunter and the Executive Director of Operations North East and North Yorkshire for Humankind, Ted Haughey who were in attendance to give an update on the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (for copy see file of minutes).

The Public Health Strategic Manager referred Members to the presentation as set out in the agenda papers, explaining that the service and delivery partner had been very busy, with the Drug and Alcohol Service being a priority for Public Health for 2018-20 and that a Public Health Team Review, helping to link the staff across the Council and set out clear roles and include close links to the Public Health Intelligence Team.

Members were referred to the Public Health Vision and Strategic Plan, and it was highlighted there was a £2.50 return for every £1.00 spent on the issue. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted she chaired that Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Group at the SDP.

The Committee noted the strategic approach taken and were given an example of the "Taylor Family" showing them in 2018 and 2020 to demonstrate the potential benefits including wider incentives such as the opportunities for employment and training.

The Public Health Strategic Manager reminded Members of the journey to date, for the Service, moving from the previous provider, Lifeline, through to DISC, now known as Humankind, in partnership with Spectrum Community Health CIC for clinical services and The Basement Project. She reminded Members of the £1.3 million removed from the service and therefore a need to move to a more modern approach. Councillors noted that integration was a key element, becoming outward focused and to work more in partnership to deliver against common goals. She added that improved pathways, family focus, outreach support and the reinvigoration of the prevention agenda were also important. Councillors noted the new operating model and the operational and outreach facilities available and the improved pathway relating to: criminal justice; primary care; mental health; and children, young people and families.

The Public Health Strategic Manager referred Members to the numbers in treatment, successful completions and noted that numbers in treatment had increased, and performance had improved. It was noted the opiate completion target had been exceeded and though performance was below national levels. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted the representation statistics, noting she felt that in many cases it was a positive if someone came back to the service for help and that there was always an open door and a willingness to re-engage. Members noted the year to date completion and performance against targets and national levels and strong performance and improvements being made.

The Public Health Strategic Manager concluded by noting the next steps including: review of the outcome of the CGC inspection; completion of the estates implementation; continued service improvement pathways; the annual service use questionnaire; a review of the Health Needs Assessment for long term opiate clients and Options Appraisal; to conduct a Health Equity Audit; and to review the service in September 2019.

The Chairman thanked the Public Health Strategic Manager and Executive Director and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor A Bainbridge noted the excellent work of a number of community groups and asked if the Officers were aware of the work of Changing Lives in the Chester-le-Street area. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted she was aware, with very good working relationships with them and a number of such organisations.

Councillor G Darkes asked if there was any trends in terms of age or gender and reasons why people misused drug and alcohol in order to try to prevent such misuse. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted that she could look to have a breakdown, but noted that the split of 70 percent male to 30 percent female reflected national figures and noted there were a wide range of issues behind why people misused alcohol and drugs.

She noted mental health issues could be a factor, as could social circumstance, finance and employment, and that the Drug and Alcohol service was one element of the work Public Health undertook in order to tackle social and health inequality. The Executive Director noted that they did analyse the demographics of service users and if there was a shift in gender split then the service would look to flex to meet the needs of the County.

The Chairman asked what buy-in was there from the relevant partner agencies and was it uniform across the County. The Executive Director noted good buy-in, with some more so than others, and that Humankind, as formerly DISC, had established good relationships with many organisation in the region, for example TEWV.

The Chairman asked as regards links to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted there were strong links, working on the criminal justice element of the Health Needs Assessment.

Councillor J Charlton asked if there was regular referrals from GPs and asked if this was uniform across the County. The Executive Director noted there was more work to do in getting the message out as regards the service, and that building upon the strong work in reshaping the service the next step was to promote, with the local experience of the company and work in North Yorkshire being valuable in this regard.

Councillor K Thompson asked how Local Councillors could get involved in helping to facilitate and signpost. The Public Health Strategic Manager explained that by raising awareness of the service and promoting the contact telephone of 03000 266 666. She reminded Members that there was an open door and those asking for support would be seen straight away.

Councillor A Patterson asked how the demand was met, in terms of the geography of the County, our rural west for example where transport links could be poor. The Executive Director noted there was some additional properties and the service would flex and it was noted in the specification as regards need and analyse numbers and demand would shape delivery, noting work undertaken at Barnard Castle. It was added that information in terms of the additional community venues being used could be circulated to Members for information.

Councillor R Crute noted the current situation in terms of funding cuts of around £18-19 million to Public Health and the "Fair Funding" to be determined and asked if there was a "Plan B". The Public Health Strategic Manager explained that the service was constantly reviewed and reiterated that the Drug and Alcohol Service had been identified as a key priority and links in terms mental health, funding, training and employment were established.

The Chairman asked as regards the number of successful completions and the annual target and number achieved so far. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted the baseline had been from previous years and that as the new service was being put in place the targets were carried forward to allow a period to settle. She added that from 2019/20 these targets would be looked at. The Executive Director added that there were monthly performance meetings and trackers built into individuals' and centres' performance. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted the number of clients in the service (latest figure 2,912 at November 2018).

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

8 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service - Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation

The Chairman asked the Chief Fire Officer, S Errington to speak in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Consultation for the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer explained for the benefit of new Members that producing an IRMP was a statutory duty of the Fire and Rescue Authority, from the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. He added that a national framework published in 2012 had set out the Government's priorities and expectations of Fire and Rescue Authorities. Members note that the current three year plan ran until 2021, with the consultation being on the annual action plan.

Members were referred to the information within the report relating to the consultation required in terms of the IRMP and noted that the consultation ran up to 4 February 2019, to be completed and reported back to the Fire Authority on 22 February 2019.

The Chief Fire Officer noted government funding cuts, representing a reduction of approximately 58 percent and set out the current medium term financial plan (MTFP), noting that it had originally thought reductions would level out in 2020/21, however, this was no longer likely to be the case. Members were advised of the Fire Brigade Union's (FBU) pay claim that had been submitted and that Fire Authorities were facing very difficult funding positions going forward.

The Chief Fire Officer noted that around 75 percent of funding related to emergency response and members were reminded of the four current shift arrangements, whole time (WT), day crewing (DC), RDS/on call, and day crewing plus (DC+). He asked Members to recall the DC+ arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe, as presented to Committee at previous meetings. The Chief Fire Officer noted that arrangements had allowed for savings, with the emergency response standards remaining the same, proof of the good choices that had been made.

The Committee noted an Emergency Response Review, with the Fire Service looking at large amount of data, and looking at risk and where costs were occurred, with 75 percent being salaries.

Members were asked to note the case between the FBU and South Yorkshire FRS as regards "close proximity crewing" similar to the DC+ arrangements in Durham. The Chief Fire Officer explained that as the case in the High Court between FBU and SYFRS had a ruling that their arrangements did not comply with Working Time Directives, then Durham could not take the risk and a review of Durham's arrangements, without DC+ was undertaken. Members noted a service profile had been produced, looking at high demand area and where the Service's resources were allocated, for example numbers of fire appliances. The Chief Fire Officer explained from the data the emergency response review had led to a number of options being looked at for future arrangements, as set out in the IRMP consultation.

Councillors noted that option one was to change DC+ arrangements to WT or equivalent. The Chief Fire Officer noted that if there were no issues in terms of money, this would be the preferable option, however, there would be a significant cost increase of around £600,000 and there was also a risk that the arrangements would not match station risk and demand profiles, as well as implication for the MTFP and a requirement to move appliances. It was noted that upon modelling these changes, it was shown to be approximately neutral in terms of response performance.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that Option Two would be for DC+ to change to DC only. It was explained this would represent a £350,000 saving, and also meant resources would be allocated to risk and demand profiles. He added modelling showed a reduction in response performance and there would be impact in terms of the numbers of appliances and on DC+ and wider staff.

Councillors noted that Option Three would be for a service wide approach would look to more changes, representing a £450,000 saving, and also allocated resources based on risk and demand profiles. It was added that it would also represent a better geographical placement of resources and improve performance at four stations and Spennymoor area and the overall service. It was explained that this option also allowed for areas where there had been high risk identified to have additional support.

The Chief Fire Officer noted that the preferred option for the CDDFRS was Option 3, as it provided savings and the opportunity to provide improved performance. Members noted that the consultation being undertaken was genuine, with the FBU and staff looking at options too. He noted that there had not been an intention to look for such a change, however, the implications of the case as described and national changes meant the various options had to be explored. He concluded by asking the Committee for their opinion and noting that individuals could respond to the consultation in addition.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his presentation and thanked him and his staff for successfully piloting our Fire Service through austerity.

Mr D Balls noted the FBU case had implications and asked as regards their position. The Chief Fire Officer noted he understood the position of the FBU and the desire for WT stations if money was no object. He reiterated the financial position for the CDDFRS, and indeed the pressures on all FRS across the country. He noted that FRS had though cuts would level out in 2019/20 and FRS were lobbying hard, else there would be implications in terms of impact in terms of risk to the public.

Councillor K Thompson noted that finance was an issue and asked if there were any implications in relation to PFI funded stations. The Chief Fire Officer noted the two stations were Spennymoor and Bishop Auckland and that the deal that was struck at the time was very good, and that it would not have been achievable at that cost via other means and there have been no issues. He added that the bigger issue was the loss of capital grants from Government, effectively a further cut. Councillor K Thompson noted he understood from the options as set out that Option Three would provide savings and enhanced cover and performance, notably in his area of Spennymoor and therefore supported that Option.

The Chairman asked if Members could indicate their preference in terms of the options as set out. Upon a show of hand the unanimous support of the Committee was for Option Three.

The Chief Fire Officer thanked the Committee for their support and noted consultation events taking place in localities: 10 January, Seaham; 14 January, Spennymoor; 15 January, Durham; and 16 January, Newton Aycliffe.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee give support to Option Three as set out by the Chief Fire Officer within the IRMP Consultation document and presentation.
- (iii) That a response containing the views of the Committee on the IRMP Consultation document be submitted to the CDDFRS.

9 County Durham Youth Offending Service - Youth Justice Plan 2018/19

The Chairman introduced the Youth Offending Manager, CDYOS, Dave Summers to give report on the Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Youth Offending Manager reminded Members of the requirement to produce a Youth Justice Plan under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and to have consultation with partner agencies upon the Plan. He noted key achievements from 2017/19, including relating to: the reduction in the number of first time entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system; reduced reoffending; reduction in remand bed nights and being on par with England and the North East region in terms of custodial sentences.

Members noted that there had been work carried out by Public Health in terms of a co-commissioned multi-skilled health team based within the CDYOS, including a school nurse, clinical psychologist, speech and language therapists, substance misuse specialists, liaison and diversion specialists and mental health specialists. It was noted this helped to meet the needs of a diverse cohort of young people that often had a number of complex issues, supporting good health outcomes.

The Committee were reminded of the additional funding provided by the PCVC in relation to victims, including young victims and looking to target the most prolific reoffenders as the number of FTE had reduced by 85 percent in the last 10 years and therefore there was a need to tackle the smaller more persistent cohort.

The Youth Offending Manager noted that more up-to-date information than contained within the report, information at December 2018 was: FTE rate, 250, less than the regional and national averages; reoffending rate, 41.6 percent less than the regional and national averages; and custodial sentences, 0.28, less than England and equal to that of the region. He added that this highlighted improving performance from an already strong position. The Youth Offending Manager explained he was proud of the work of volunteer young people in their role as mentors, and the co-commissioned service had been shortlisted for an award. He noted that the issue of young people's education and progression was important and that resources and interventions in respect of speech, language and communication needs had been developed as well as looking to help develop young people that were often very far from the job market through the Skill Mill, a CIC implemented by the Service.

The Chairman thanked Youth Offending Manager for his report and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor K Thompson asked what the 85 percent reduction could be attributed to. The Youth Offending Manager noted there was no individual reason, with lots of work having been undertaken. He noted the hard work of the service and the Police in terms of restorative approaches and the strong partnership arrangements that had developed over the years. The Youth Offending Manager noted there had been a lot of work within schools in addition and he noted that young people themselves should also be credited in terms of a general improvement in behaviour.

Councillor J Considine asked as regards the Skill Mill, noting the good work already. The Youth Offending Manager noted it was a national CIC, based in Newcastle, and there could be potential for the future to develop a CIC as this would allow for grant applications.

The Chairman noted the comments in relation to targeting prolific offenders and asked how this was being attempted. The Youth Offending Manager noted there was a range of agencies involved and in many cases it takes a number of partners working together to be able to make progress. He added that in many cases health issues compound problems and he stressed that the CDYOS never gave up, although there was always the threat of the option of custody as another way to try to motivate. He explained that the CDYOS believed that young people can change and would always look to help individuals and address their needs.

Mr D Balls commented that the appendix setting out the commonly used acronyms had proved to be very useful and encouraged this be mirrored by other Officers in their reports.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Quarter Two 2018/19 Performance Report

The Chairman introduced the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager, Tom Gorman who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter Two 2018/19 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer theme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager referred Members to the report, with the key performance indicators (KPIs) being set out against the key performance questions (KPQs): how effective are we at tackling crime and disorder; how effective are we at tackling anti-social behaviour; how well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol; how well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation; and how do we keep our environment safe, including roads and waterways.

It was noted that the key performance issues in terms of crime and disorder, with an increase in the crime rate (reported), noting a workshop session on Recorded Crime having been led by Chief Superintendent A Green. It was added that factors related included recording methods changing nationally, greater reporting through greater encouraging of reporting, and an element of actual increase in crime. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that the increase did appear to be tailing off and level out. In terms of violence against the person, there had been an increase though this was thought to be largely an increase due to recording changes.

It was added that there had been an increase in shoplifting in particular areas, and that any link to areas where the roll out of Universal Credit had taken place would be looked at, and information reported within the Quarter Three report.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that in terms of anti-social behaviour (ASB) there had been a reduction, continuing the recent trend, again as recording of crime had changed, many issues that would have been ASB was now recorded as crime, roughly comparable to the increases in crime as noted. Members noted that while the total number of incidents had reduced, there was an increase in environmental ASB, and were asked to recall the work in relation to arson carried out in the East of the County.

Councillors noted the measure in relation to public confidence in the Local Authority and Police in dealing with crime and ASB. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager reminded Members that this information was collated nationally from surveys quarterly and that this had decreased from around 63% to 50%, a significant decrease. He added that this was an area that would be looked at by the Council and Durham Constabulary and further information would be presented to Committee in due course.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager reiterated the improvement in terms of the Council's Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, with completion rates now greater than target and better than the North East, albeit less than the national average.

Councillors noted information relating to the vulnerable people, and the statistics relating to a safe environment, including the numbers of those killed or seriously injured (KSIs) having significantly improved since the previous year. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that also the number of child KSIs had also reduced, with no fatalities. Members were reminded of the ongoing work of the Overview and Scrutiny Officer in terms of the Working Group that would look at the topic of road safety.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor R Crute noted the decrease in ASB and the increase of crime and asked as regards the value in being able to unpick the issues, with many people assuming the Police dealt with crime and DCC would deal with ASB. He wondered that if they were split if a different picture and areas that the Council could influence would emerge. He noted the increase in shoplifting and asked if it could be looked at to see if there was any links to areas that had been pilot areas for the roll out of Universal Credit (UC). The Chairman agreed that unpicking the issues could be beneficial and he noted in his area a rise in shoplifting, his area also being one of the pilot UC areas. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted the confidence measure came from surveys with individuals asked if they felt that the Police and Local Authority were working effectively to tackle crime and ASB in their area. He added that this was the perception of crime or ASB, not the recorded crime or ASB. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted he would look as regards the increase in shoplifting and the roll out of UC, noting originally the Police had not noted any correlation.

The Chief Fire Officer noted the information on road safety was very positive, with a lot of positive work being undertaken in this regard. He added that the multiagency approach taken was very pleasing to note.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Overview and Scrutiny Review Updates

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that the joint Working Group of the Children and Young People's and Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees looking at the topic of Residential Children's Care Homes had met twice and also held a focus group session, the last meeting looking at the demand and risk. He explained that there had been a lot of positives identified, along with challenges being faced. It was explained that "placing the child at the centre" was key and that the next meeting on 31 January would look at the relevant regulations and legislation.

Members noted that in relation to the Committee's chosen topic for review, Road Safety, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer was meeting with the Road Safety Manager, Paul Watson as regards the review and a draft Terms of Reference would be presented to Members in due course.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.

12 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer gave a verbal update report in respect of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP), noting issues to be considered at the meeting to be held Thursday this week included Panel included: precept consultation; an update on the Police Crime and Victims' Plan Outcome Two "Victims and the Vulnerable feel supported"; and the quarterly performance report.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that he would circulate the relevant links to Members. The Chairman reminded Members that the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee maintained close links and fed into the PCP as appropriate.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.