

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 **Friday 20 June 2014** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Charlton, P Conway, S Forster, J Gray, C Hampson, M Hodgson, G Holland, J Maitland, N Martin, J Measor, T Nearney, K Shaw, P Stradling, J Turnbull and C Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr A J Cooke

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

S Errington and Chief Superintendent G Hall

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, D Hall and Mr J Welch.

The Chairman informed Members that following recent Co-optee interviews, Mr Tony Cooke and Mr Jim Welch had been appointed to the Committee, the Chair noted that letters had been sent to Mr Malcolm Iveson, Mr Barry Knevitt, Ms Emma Roebuck and Mr Tony Thompson for their valuable contributions to the Committee's work.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 3 April 2014 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman noted that in respect of Item 8 from the meeting on 3 April 2014, Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups, several Members had noted that there was still no formal role for Members within the LMAPS process, accepting potential data protection issues, and it had been felt that Members could, where appropriate, contribute positively to the LMAPS process, having a lot of useful information about their local areas.

It was added that Members had also noted a lack of feedback on issues raised at LMAPS, citing the good feedback that was given by the Council's Neighbourhood Wardens on issues as an excellent example of keeping Members up-to-date. Members all noted that it was hoped that Councillors could be more fully involved within future arrangements.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee noted for Members' information that responses from the Committee in relation to Items relating to LMAPS and the Safe Durham Partnership had been passed to Children and Adults Services.

Councillor P Conway asked as regards the progress in respect of the approach to drug and alcohol treatment being reported back to the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman, Councillor D Boyes noted that the issue would be set out within the item on the agenda relating to the Work Programme. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that in respect of the County Durham Drug Strategy, this would be reported and discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) and reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) as the issue was cross-cutting.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillors M Hodgson, K Shaw and J Turnbull declared an interest in Item 13 as Members of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority. Mr S Errington declared an interest in Item 13 as an Officer of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

Mr S Errington, Co-opted Member and Deputy Fire Officer, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority had submitted a report, set out at Item 13, relating to The Fire Risk and Impact of Hoarding on Households within County Durham.

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee 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 work by Neighbourhood Wardens in relation to dog fouling and littering, an update as regards the Committee's report on Neighbourhood Wardens was scheduled for the meeting in September. Other articles noted were: a number of arrests made in connection with suspected Burglars, "Operation Relentless"; and work in relation to the tackling domestic abuse and drink driving, in the context of potential for increased alcohol consumption during the football World Cup 2014.

Members also noted that the Council's Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services, Racheal Shimmin had been honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours with an OBE and the Queen's Police Medal had been awarded to the Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary, Mike Barton.

Chief Superintendent G Hall informed the Committee that two submissions from Mr and Mrs Edwards, Newton Aycliffe and the Kids Club, Ushaw Moor had been shortlisted within the National Neighbourhood Watch Awards finals 2014.

Resolved:

- (i) That the presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee note the achievements within the Queen's Birthday Honours list and National Neighbourhood Watch Awards and letters of recognition and congratulations on behalf of the Committee be issued to the Chief Constable, Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services, Mr and Mrs Edwards and Ushaw Moor Kids Club.

7 Drug Treatment Centres

The Chairman introduced the Commissioning Manager, Children and Adults Services, Mark Harrison who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to Drug Treatment Centres (for copy see file of minutes) and asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to give an update as regards the issue being looked at within the Committee's Work Programme.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded Members that at the last meeting of the Committee, Members had looked at the Work Programme for the Committee and wished to look at the issue of drug treatment and reoffending. It was explained that there was an ongoing process of review looking at the service, with a procurement exercise to provide and integrate drug and alcohol treatment service. The Chairman noted that in the light of the ongoing work, it would perhaps be more appropriate to have a small working group of 6-7 Members to help in the ongoing process of review and to have another "main topic" for the Committee's Work Programme, namely Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). Members agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman and several Members volunteered to sit on the Working Group looking at the review of the service.

The Commissioning Manager thanked Members for their assistance and referred them to the presentation relating to the Alcohol and Drug Service Review. It was noted that the aim of the review was "to commission an integrated service model which is evidence based, efficient, cost effective and delivers on key outcome", the new service aiming to be in place by 1 January 2015. It was explained that the objectives were: to improve outcomes for service users and their families; to ensure community recovery from dependency; and to make efficiencies from the current system to ensure there is "value for money".

Members noted that the reasons why an integrated approach was being developed were to: provide "sustainable recovery"; remove duplication; provide early intervention; provide efficient use of investment; and to allow for the most appropriate ways of utilising this proportion of the Public Health grant. Councillors noted that in relation to the recovery pathway, a continuum model encompassed: active addiction; early "in treatment"; stable "in treatment" and abstinent recovery support. The Commissioning Manager explained that component elements of the recovery system included: prevention, the recovery team, the Recovery Academy Durham (RAD) and the Durham Recovery and Wellbeing (DRAW) hub.

Members noted that the pathways were phased and multi-layered, moving from engagement and pre-treatment through preparation, change and ultimately to completion or recovery.

The Committee were referred to slides highlighting the impact of alcohol and drug on both health and on families and communities, with figures from Public Health England showing that the annual cost of alcohol related harm being £21 billion, and the annual cost of drug addiction being £15.4 billion. Members were told of work locally with 8 people through the recovery process, and informed of the potential savings to the public purse noting 18 years of “clean times” and 57 years of “no offending”.

Members were reminded of the Drug Strategy with key objectives of preventing harm, restricting supply and building recovery.

It was explained that the next steps were: the final drugs and alcohol review report to be presented to Children and Adult Services (CAS) Senior Management Team and Public Health Senior Management Team; procurement assessment, a market stimulation event; pre-qualifying questionnaire (PQQ) and issue an invitation to tender (ITT); the Contract is to be awarded in October 2014; a period of migration and transition will take place in November and December 2014; with the new integrated drug and alcohol service commencing January 2015.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for the presentation and asked Members for their questions.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor T Nearney noted the figures of the cost to the public regarding alcohol and drug related harm was staggering and asked whether there was any scope for the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) to be used to help fund drug and alcohol treatment. The Commissioning Manager noted there was no scope at this time.

Chief Superintendent G Hall asked questions relating to: pathways, signposting and quick routes; balancing the tackling of alcohol and drug related harm; and whether issues related to mental health were built into processes. The Commissioning Manager noted that the pathways were based upon a “LEAN” model and that it was agreed that there would be a need to market the service, with a consistent approach to be applied countywide and this would be considered within the tendering process. Members noted that there was an assertive outreach model and work with key referral organisations to improve links regarding Mental Health. The Commissioning Manager added that indeed, in the past there had been a greater focus on preventing drug related harm, however, in Durham there had been a lot of work by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in the recent past in respect of preventing alcohol related harm and that a balance was required, while also taking into account of emerging issues such as so called “legal highs”.

Members asked further questions in relation to: performance being below national and regional figures; whether there was information as regards the number of Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) that involved drugs, rather than alcohol; the types of organisation that may bid for work regarding the Drug Treatment Centres; provision for children of drug and alcohol addicted parents; capacity of GP in respect of referrals; whether support via Drug Treatment Centres was spread across the county; whether the level of support was similar to when Members had visited; and whether the Ambassadors Group had been involved in consultation as regards the proposed changes.

The Commissioning Manager explained that the performance reported was a reflection of the positive results being achieved and that information regarding drug driving could be obtained.

It was added that current providers, large national 3rd sector organisations and a number of large private companies were expected to bid for contracts. The Commissioning Manager noted that there was a need to integrate the “think family” approach into processes, adding that Family Workers were factored into the new model. Councillors were informed that around 6 years ago, the PCT had invested in order to clear a backlog and that the turnaround regarding referrals was approximately 2 weeks, less than the national performance guidance of “within 3 weeks”.

The Commissioning Manager noted that as regards access across the county there were 7 treatment centres, 2 recovery hubs and many outreach activities, especially in the more rural parts of the County.

It was added that some people often wished to access services “not in their area”, to retain a level of anonymity and that while current programmes worked for those people that did engage with the centres, there was a need to look to develop programmes and advertising to attract and help those that are not currently engaged.

The Commissioning Manager noted that the Ambassadors Group had been involved in consultation via the Recovery Forum, an event having been held at the Town Hall in Durham.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee establish a Review Group to carry out further work with Officers on a staged basis to consider the review of existing services, new contractual arrangements after the award of contract and initial implementation of the new service with effect from January 2015.
- (iii) That the Committee agreed to undertake a review looking at Organised Crime as its main topic for the forthcoming year.

8 Quarter 4, 2013/14 Performance Management Report

The Chairman introduced the Performance and Data Services Manager, Children and Adults Services, David Knighton who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 4 2013/14 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer theme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Performance and Data Services Manager referred Members to the report and noted key performance achievements, including: a continued reduction of repeat presentations at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) well below national and regional levels; reduction of detected crimes for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort (65% reduction); and the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System being consistent with the national average.

It was noted that the performance issues included a slight underperformance in respect of the number of people in drug treatment with the Community Drugs Services, noting that this issue was being looked at, as per the previous report and presentation.

It was added that other issues included the number of people killed or seriously injured being worse than the same point the previous year, noting several activities ongoing in response such as a review of 20 mph speed limits, several engineering schemes in high accident risk areas and work carried out by the Road Casualty Reduction Forum. The Committee learned that tracker indicators linked to the Altogether Safer theme highlighted an overall increase in crime for Quarter 4 though the level was still below the 2012 figures and that the recent serious crime investigations, linked to national investigations, would affect the statistics. The Performance and Data Services Manager explained that figures for anti-social behavior (ASB) had reduced, though for environmental ASB there had been a slight increase. The Committee noted the increase in the alcohol related violent crime, alcohol related ASB and stealing offences.

The Chairman thanked the Performance and Data Services Manager and asked Members for their questions.

Members asked questions in relation to: the severity of accidents on motorways and whether 20 mph zones were advisory or enforceable.

The Chairman noted that once schemes for road casualty reduction had been put in place they should be enforceable. The Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services, Peter Appleton noted that work was ongoing with the issues and would be brought back to Overview and Scrutiny. It was suggested that to provide clarity on the issue of whether the 20 mph zones were enforceable or advisory the Council's Strategic Traffic Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development, Dave Wafer could be invited to speak to the Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed Members that there would be an update on activity from the Road Safety Reduction Partnership is scheduled for the September meeting of the Committee.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, S Errington noted that while engineering solutions to road safety were appropriate in certain circumstances, it was also important to address issues of attitudes and to provide education on the issues around road safety. Chief Superintendent G Hall added that Durham Constabulary was aware of the issues in relation to road traffic accidents and there was a huge amount of work ongoing with information to come back for Members' information. It was added that similarly the issue of hate crime, was a Police and Crime Commissioner priority, had a lot of ongoing work and that the statistics themselves did not provide a complete picture. The Chairman asked whether it may be possible for the Committee to hold a workshop session at Police Headquarters to look further into crime statistics and to look at initiatives in place including IT systems to tackling those issues identified within the report. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted he would liaise with colleagues from Durham Constabulary accordingly.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) Arrangements be made for a workshop session to be held focusing on crime statistics and initiatives in place to tackle crime with Durham Constabulary.

9 Council Plan 2014-2017 - Refresh of the Work Programme

The Chairman introduced the Corporate Improvement Manager, Assistant Chief Executive's, Tom Gorman to speak to Members in relation to the Council Plan 2014-2017 - Refresh of the Work Programme for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Improvement Manager reminded Members that the Committee considered a report at the last meeting outlining a draft work programme for the Committee, with Members having the chance to decide upon topics for review, noting as per the previous discussions that there would be a small review group in terms of Drug Treatment Centres and a review looking at Organised Crime Groups. It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer would liaise with colleagues from Durham Constabulary accordingly

Resolved:

That the Committee agree the Work Programme as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

10 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the update report as contained within the agenda pack and the Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were no questions raised.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Safe Durham Partnership Briefing

The Chairman asked the Community Safety Manager, Caroline Duckworth to speak to Members as regards an update from the Safer Durham Partnership (for copy see file of minutes).

Members noted the information as regards: a Domestic Homicide workshop to be held in September 2014; the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17, (having been agreed by the SDP Board and to be presented to Council in September 2014),; Welfare Reform; and the Community Safety Fund, with projects being funded that support the strategic objectives in both the Partnership Plan and the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan.

The Head of Planning and Service Strategy explained that the process of Transforming Rehabilitation was ongoing, reminding Members of the split of the National Probation Service (NPS) dealing with the "high risk" offenders and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) dealing with all other offenders. Councillors noted the relationships having been mapped regarding the NPS, CRC and SDP. Members were informed that an update from both the NPS and CRC may be beneficial within the Committee's work programme.

The Community Safety Manager noted that the SDP had submitted an entry to the Howard League Community Programmes Award in respect of the SDPs approach to Integrate Restorative Practices, the approach having been shortlisted for the awards, the winners being announced at the national conference on 15 July 2014 by HRH the Princess Royal.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That arrangements be made for progress updates from the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company to be included within the Committee's work programme.

12 Exclusion of the Public

That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

13 The Fire Risk and Impact of Hoarding on Households within County Durham

The Chairman welcomed the Station Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Andy Bruce who was in attendance to give a presentation to Members in relation to The Fire Risk and Impact of Hoarding on Households within County Durham.

Members received a comprehensive presentation on the subject and were given the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the issues arising. Councillors noted the information as regards the signs of hoarding and the mechanisms to follow in respect of help those vulnerable members of our communities.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted and information to raise awareness be circulated to all Members of the Council.

Signed

Chairman of the meeting held on 16 September 2014