

**MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT 7PM ON
TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2019
BOURGES / VIERSSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors N. Simons (Chairman), R. Bisby, S Bond, R. Brown (Vice-Chairman), L Coles, John Fox, J Howard, J Howell, M. Jamil, I Yasin.
Co-opted Member: Parish Councillor Neil Boyce

Officers Present: Charlotte Black - Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding
Amy Brown – Senior Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Fiona Adley – Head of Commissioning (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities)
Shona Britten – Social Care Professional Lead, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.
Sarah Ferguson – Asst. Director, Housing Communities and Youth
Cate Harding – Community Capacity Manager
Bill Tilah – Estates Surveyor, NPS Peterborough
Anna Jack – Head of Service, Youth Support
David Beauchamp – Democratic Services Officer

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aitken. Councillor L. Coles was in attendance as a substitute.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 7. Youth Justice Plan 2019-22

Councillor Bisby declared a non-statutory interest due to his position as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and elected to remain in the room for discussion of this item.

**14. MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2019**

The minutes of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

15. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS

There were no requests for call in to consider.

**16. PETERBOROUGH MENTAL HEALTH SECTION 75 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019**

The report was introduced by the Head of Commissioning and the Social Care Professional Lead which updated the Committee on service and financial

performance, activity and outcomes under the Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement 2018-2019.

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members thanked officers for the report.
- Members referred to section 4.3 on page 13 of the reports pack and asked if '6.71' total vacancies would be considered high or low and what impact these vacancies were having. Officers responded that this was the vacancy level at the time of writing, and was not reflective of current vacancy levels. Officers were mindful of the potential impacts of the vacant posts on quality of service but localised solutions had been put in place to mitigate these impacts.
- Members asked why posts were being vacated and if there was an issue retaining staff and providing attractive employment opportunities. Officers responded that the team of staff providing mental health services in Peterborough was stable. Reasons for the vacation of posts included staff progression, e.g. people moving from unqualified to qualified posts through training. It was important to be mindful of staff turnover issues but other arrangements had impacted on this. The 'vacancy factor' was sometimes used to support work in another area.
- Members requested greater information on out of hours service provision. Officers responded that there was an out of hours emergency duty team which had Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPS) as part of it. Work was regularly done in collaboration with police and community groups.
- Members followed up by emphasising that many people needed help out of hours. Officers responded that the out of hours team and daytime staff were integrated and there was a handover period between the two

ACTIONS AGREED

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to

1. Endorse the report as a full account of service and financial performance, activity and outcomes under the Partnership Agreement.
2. Endorse the revised Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement including the uplift of £221,000 on the 2014 investment which addresses under-funding in non-pay, learning and development, management costs inc. Approved Mental Health Practitioner service management and the Prison Social Worker.

17. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with Standing Orders, the Committee was asked to determine whether the exempt Annex (Appendix 1) relating to item 6. Community Asset Transfer, which contains exempt information as defined by Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Local Government Act 1972, should be exempt and the press and public excluded from the meeting should this exempt annex be discussed, or whether the public interest in disclosing this information outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

The Committee **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed to the exclusion of the press and public should the exempt annexe be discussed.

The report was introduced by the Assistant Director – Housing, Communities and Youth, the Community Capacity Manager, and the Estates Surveyor – NPS Peterborough. The report allowed the Committee to be informed about the progress made to date regarding the properties in scope for community asset transfers and comment on systems in place to support community groups and the final steps required to conclude the programme

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- A member commented that he visited many community centres as part of his role as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and praised the Community Asset Transfer Scheme for helping communities by allowing people to take ownership of facilities.
- Members asked if the scheme had been extended further to March 2020. Officers responded that the scheme was originally due to conclude at the end of the 2018/2019 municipal year. However, it had been determined that a year's extension was necessary to provide the level of support community groups needed to be as effective as possible. The rate of asset transfer had slowed due to support levels required. Once this support was in place, the scheme could be progressed and concluded.
- Some members felt that ward councillors had not received any updates on the progression of community asset transfer. Officers responded that information on progress could be found in the Exempt Annex. Ward Councillors would be contacted if there were problems with an asset transfer scheme. If nothing was received, it could be assumed a transfer of an asset was proceeding well but officers were always happy to provide further information to members if required.
- Members expressed concern that many centres were not being transferred to community groups due to the recipient not being in a position to take on this responsibility. Ensuring the new management of the centres was viable was important.
- If it was considered unviable for a particular community organisation to take responsibility for a centre then an alternative means of keeping the building open would be identified. There was currently no bidding process used but at Gladstone Park, the bidding process had already been completed, and it was felt that the arrangement with a local school was the best way forward.
- Officers responded to concerns about safeguarding the use of buildings for the community by stating that every agreed lease contained an 'Occupier's Agreement' to determine how each centre must be managed in order to protect the interests of a community. The Council requested receipt of annual accounts for community assets to ensure their continued viability. Where there are specific concerns raised about a particular centre, the Occupancy Agreement will be tailored accordingly to specify the improvements that are required.
- Members stated that a number of community buildings were in need of repair and asked what the cost liability to the Council will be. Members also asked that what would happen to the builds if this cost was considered too high.
- Officers responded that there was a small capital budget for each of the centres spread of three years from 2018/19. This would not be available after 2021. Some centres would cost more to refurbish than others. A landlord

schedule of works would be agreed of what was required to keep a building safe, e.g. boiler replacement and 'big ticket items'. Redecorations and small improvements would not be covered. Community Asset Transfer did incur a short-term capital cost but gave a long-term saving to the Council.

- Members noted that the refurbishment budget was in place until 2021 and asked if that meant the responsibility for centres would not be transferred until then. Officers responses that it had been a challenge to give centres assurances that the Council would complete the work. The Landlord Schedule of works was incorporated into the lease so there was therefore an obligation for Peterborough City Council to complete the works. A conversation took place regarding the best time to undertaken works, e.g. if a boiler malfunctioned now that would form part of the repairs and maintenance budget. However, on the leases being completed now, boilers would be replaced in 2021. It was important to drive forward progress in this area for officers to be able to account to give predictions to budget holders of the likely spend on maintenance over the next few years.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Scrutinise the progress made to date regarding the properties in scope for community asset transfers
2. Note and comment on the assurances in place to support community groups
3. Comment on the final steps required to conclude the programme

18. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2019-22

The report was introduced by the Assistant Director, Housing Communities and Youth and the Head of Service, Youth Support. The report enabled the committee to scrutinise the objectives and priorities set out within the Joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth justice Plan 2019-22 and consider endorsing it for approval:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members asked for advice on how they could best communicate the Youth Justice Plan to parents and expressing concerns that certain negative 'headlines' may be reported to parents in the media at the expense of more positive news. A formal report may not be suitable for this purpose. Officers advised that Members work with service managers for Targeted Youth Support Services and other Council workers who engage with communities. Attendance at engagement events was encouraged.
- Officers were looking to hold Community Engagement events regarding anti-social behaviour, knife carrying and gangs from the Youth Justice Plan. This work was part of the Targeted Youth Support Service rather than the Youth Justice Plan and led by Matt Oliver.
- Officers agreed that communicating the Plan in a simple and non-technical style was important. It was agreed that officers would consider how they could achieve this to produce a 'community friendly' plan.
- Officers referred to the Think Communities Strategy and stated that they wanted parents to be aware of how they could contribute. The Strategy could

not be delivered on by the City Council alone; the involvement of communities and parents was important.

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ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1. Scrutinise and endorse the Joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth Justice Plan
2. Scrutinise and endorses the strategic objectives of the Youth Justice Management Partnership
3. Scrutinise and endorse the Peterborough Youth Offending Service operational priorities.

It was also agreed that the Assistant Director, Housing, Communities and the Youth and Head Service, Youth Support would consider how they could produce a non-technical 'community friendly' version of the Youth Justice Plan.

19. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which enabled the committee to monitor and track the progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to consider the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

20. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Democratic Services officer introduced the report which invited Members to consider the most recent version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and identify any relevant items for inclusion within the Committee's work programme or to request further information.

There were no further comments made.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to consider the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

21. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020

The Democratic Services Officer, David Beauchamp, introduced the report which gave the committee the opportunity to review the work programme and suggest any additional items to be considered.

ACTIONS AGREED;

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the work programme.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12 November 2019

Chairman
7pm – 7:44pm