

**MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7PM, ON
TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Committee Members Present: Councillors N. Simons (Chair), K. Aitken, R. Bisby, S. Bond, R. Brown, A. Ellis, John Fox, J. Howard, J. Howell, A. Iqbal, I Yasin
Co-opted Member: Parish Councillors Neil Boyce and James Hayes

Officers Present: Charlotte Black – Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding
Adrian Chapman – Service Director, Communities and Partnerships
Debbie McQuade – Assistant Director, Adults and Safeguarding
Matt Oliver – Head of Think Communities
Peter Gell – Assistant Director – Regulatory Services
Rob Hill – Assistant Director - Community Safety
Sarah Bye – Senior Commissioner, Early Intervention and Prevention and Mental Health
Shauna Torrance – Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning
David Beauchamp – Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Jo Procter – Head of Service – Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Boards
Shona Britten – Social Care Professional Lead, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest or whipping declarations were received.

30. MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 November 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

There were no requests for call in to consider.

32. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH SAFEGUARDING ADULT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The report was introduced by the Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding and the Head of Service, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Boards.

The report updated members on the work and progress of the Board between April 2019 and March 2020.

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

- Praise was given to the Safeguarding Board's contribution to the COVID-19 response.
- Members asked what factors were behind the 55% increase in the number of attendees at multi-agency training sessions. Officers responded that although the training programme was well established for Children's Safeguarding, it was new for Adults Safeguarding, which explained the rapid increase from 2018-19. An estimated additional 50% increase had occurred since March 2020.
- Councillors were welcome to attend any of the training sessions run by the Boards. Bespoke sessions had been delivered in the past. Members requested that the Head of Service shares details of safeguarding training sessions with Committee Members.
- Information on the COVID-19 vaccination programme was available in a wide variety of languages.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. Receive and note the contents of the annual report.
2. Request that the Head of Service shares details of safeguarding training sessions with Committee Members.

MENTAL HEALTH SECTION 75 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – ANNUAL REPORT

The report was introduced by the Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding accompanied by the Assistant Director - Adults and Safeguarding, the Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning and the Social Care Professional Lead - CPFT. The report gave an update on the discharge of responsibilities for mental health delegated to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) through the Mental Health Section 75 Partnership Agreement for the year 2019-20 and an update for the current year 2020-21.

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

- Members praised the successful transition of services to online formats.
- Members noted that 84.7% of adults aged 18-69 in contact with secondary mental health services were living independently, in excess of the target of 75%, and asked for the reasons behind this success. Officers responded that there was an emphasis on providing people with the least restrictive care option possible and meeting people's needs at the earliest opportunity. A key priority was the pursuit of community-based solutions.
- Officers encouraged Members to make mental health referrals as early as possible so that the need for early interventions could be identified. This was especially important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mental health services had continued during the pandemic, including assessments under the Mental Health Act. Mitigations were in place to reduce the risk of service users contracting COVID-19. The response time for emergency out of hours calls was one hour.
- Initiatives were in place to help service users transition from child to adult mental

health services.

- Members asked how staff retention and recruitment could be improved. Officers responded that this would be done by utilising the social work wheel more effectively, using mobile apps, increasing interest in posts and restructuring roles.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to endorse the report as a full account of service and financial performance, activity and outcomes under the Section 75 Partnership Agreement.

34. PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROGRESS REPORT – COMMUNITIES

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Communities accompanied by the Head of Think Communities, the Assistant Director – Community Safety and the Head of Regulatory Services. The report allowed the Committee to scrutinise the work being undertaken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member.

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

- Members praised the work of the COVID-19 coordination hub, the proactive efforts of volunteers and the role of the Think Communities initiative in aiding the response to the pandemic.
- Issues relating to community centre management would be addressed in the next phase of the COVID-19 response.
- The Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES) was offering support to supermarkets in enforcing COVID-19 public health measures.
- Members asked if lockdown had exacerbated online scams and child grooming. Officers responded that there had not been any additional concerns reported through the Scams Partnerships but would investigate Members' concerns in more detail outside the meeting in collaboration with the Head of Service for the Safeguarding Boards
- Members raised concerns that some elderly people might miss information on scam prevention if they did not use the internet. Officers responded that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) had a large number of members who could liaise with people through a variety of means. Age U.K. provided guidance on the most appropriate communications methods. Although there was a strong emphasis on social media, officers were confident that their publications reached the intended audience. People were encouraged to report any specific concerns so that information could be provided in alternative formats. Targeted communications took place, e.g. in within faith settings and A8 Communities.
- Members requested that the Head of Regulatory Services provides a briefing note to Members on the revenue raised from the selective licensing process. It was noted that funding from the scheme was reinvested in the service.
- The Selective Licensing Scheme had improved compliance and increased the standard of housing although there was more work to do.
- Members asked for a comparison of the prosecution rate before and after the Selective Licencing Scheme was introduced. Officers responded that a variety of methods were employed to achieve compliance among landlords including providing support, advice and proportionate sanctions where appropriate. A report on future plans for prosecution would be provided to the Committee as part of the consultation on the next Selective Licensing policy.
- A robust system was in place to brief COVID marshals on locations where there

were issues and deploy them rapidly. Marshals did not have any enforcement powers. Feedback had been good although there had been negative comments regarding certain premises types being targeted more regularly. The Marshals' work would cover beauty spots such as Ferry Meadows.

- Members requested information on the role of community support groups in tackling domestic violence. Officers responded that the Peterborough hub had been involved in referrals. There were good links between the Council and Womens' Centres. Further work could take place to improve communication and awareness about available services. The Domestic Violence team had remained fully staffed through the pandemic with no redeployments to other service areas taking place.
- Members commented that information on the support available for victims of domestic violence could be made available in different languages to reflect the diverse nature of the City.
- Members commented that non-typical patterns of domestic violence had emerged during the pandemic, such as children attacking adults.
- Members expressed support for the use of Selective Licensing and Article 4 directions and requested that the Head of Regulatory Services provides a briefing note regarding plans for the use of Article 4 directions for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOS) in the City.
- Leafletting was not currently widely used to communicate COVID-19 support information. If this was to take place in the future, the cost and logistics would need to be taken into account and the appropriate time chosen to ensure its effectiveness.
- Members raised concerns regarding youth gatherings in rural areas and what was being done to address them. Officers responded that it was important not to single out any particular group of people; with many groups meeting for a variety of reasons across the City. Such instances had been reducing since the third national lockdown was introduced.
- Members raised concerns regarding the prevalence of fly-tipping across the city and asked if cameras were being utilised effectively and if appropriate punishments were being issued by the courts. Officers responded that they had aimed to maintain a focus on fly-tipping and cameras were being used. The recommendations of the Task and Finish Group continued to be implemented.
- The Committee requested that the Assistant Director, Community Safety provides a briefing note containing information on fly-tipping prosecutions.
- The CCTV Service was pursuing commercial opportunities in order to expand the service further in light of budget challenges.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. Consider and scrutinise this report and endorse the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member.
2. Request that the Democratic Services Officer adds an item to the 2021/22 work programme regarding the impact of COVID-19 on families.
3. Request that the Head of Think Communities and the Head of Service for the Safeguarding Boards informs the Committee if lockdown had exacerbated incidents of online scams and child grooming.
4. Request that the Head of Regulatory Services provides a briefing note to Members on the revenue raised from the selective licensing process.
5. Request that the Assistant Director, Community Safety provides a briefing note

containing information on fly-tipping prosecutions.

6. Request that the Head of Regulatory Services provides a briefing note regarding plans for the use of Article 4 directions for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOS) in the City.

35. 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.

There was UNANIMOUS agreement to mark the recommendation from the meeting on 10 September 2019 as completed.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. Consider the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. Mark the recommendations from the meeting on 10 September 2019 as completed.

36. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Chairman 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 from Members.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to consider the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

37. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the item which gave members the opportunity to consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2020/21 and discuss possible items for inclusion.

There were no further comments from Members.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee noted the work programme for 2021/21

38. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22 February 2021 – Joint Scrutiny of the Budget
2 March 2021 – Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee

CHAIRMAN

7pm – 8.43pm