

**MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7PM, ON
TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 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 Members: 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
Ian Phillips – Head of Communities and Partnerships Integration
Rob Hill – Assistant Director - Community Safety
Tina Hornsby – Head of Integration
Clair George – Head of Prevention and Enforcement Service
David Beauchamp – Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Superintendent Kate Anderson – Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health
Councillor Steve Allen – Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation
Councillor Asif Shaheed – Chair of the Task and Finish Group to Promote Equality and Diversity Amongst Councillors

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

It was noted that Councillor John Fox would arrive 30 minutes after the start of the meeting.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Councillor Simons declared a non-pecuniary interest due to being a board member of Peterborough Limited (agenda item 6. Culture and Leisure Services, incorporating Peterborough Cultural Strategy and Active Lifestyles Strategy). Councillor Simons would therefore not take part in any discussion relating to Peterborough Limited.

Councillor Bisby declared a statutory disclosable pecuniary interest due to being the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire (agenda item 5. Safer Peterborough Partnership Board Report). Councillor Bisby would therefore leave the meeting for the duration of this item.

**41. MINUTES OF THE ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2021**

The minutes of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

There were no requests for call in to consider.

43. SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD REPORT

Councillor Bisby left the meeting for the duration of this agenda item.

The report was introduced by the Assistant Director, Community Safety accompanied by the Head of the Prevention and Enforcement Service and Superintendent Kate Anderson, Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The report updated Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committee members on the key activity of the Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) Board.

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

- It was clarified that the term 'Cuckooing' found in section 4.9 referred to drug dealers using the addresses of vulnerable adults to commit crime. The Council safeguarded these vulnerable individuals when there were identified, e.g., by liaising with housing providers and banning visits by certain individuals.
- Members asked which organisations were represented on the Operation Spotlight drug intervention working group mentioned in section 4.9 and if ward councillors could get involved in the group's work. Superintendent Kate Anderson thanked members for their offer of support. ASPIRE Change Grow Live was the main organisation for drug intervention. They contributed to the SPP's work and were well attuned to the challenges of the issue.
- Some members felt that the report should have contained more information on domestic violence. It was agreed that the Assistant Director, Community Safety would provide the Committee with a briefing note or report on the work of the Domestic Violence Partnership and the Safer Peterborough Partnership on this issue.
- Members asked how the 1,400 individual Peterborough Hub contacts would be supported going forward. Officers responded that the value of the hub was recognised and there were no plans to disband it. It was importance to help people at the earliest opportunity. A significant proportion of the 1,400 people would require continued support; in some cases from education services or community sector partners. A relationship with the individuals would be maintained.
- Members asked if lockdown made the policing of drug crime easier or harder. Supt. Anderson responded that some aspects were easier as individuals and groups on the street could be engaged with under COVID-19 legislation; leading to the use of measures such as Stop and Search. Suspects might also be more likely to be at home. However, one downside was the loss of community-based intelligence from conversations with people on the street.
- Members asked how long the Empowering Women Everywhere (EWE) project would be operating for. Officers responded that one funding pot provided 5 support workers for 12 months and another provided a project support worker and outreach worker for 15 months. Further funding was required to continue the scheme in the long term and this was being sought from national bodies.
- Members commented that residents had major concerns over fly-tipping and asked if surveillance cameras were being used and if they were successful. Officers

responded that the cameras were being actively used and generating positive results.

Councillor Bisby re-joined the meeting.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. Scrutinise the content of the report, noting and commenting on the activity of the SPP Board.
2. Request that the Assistant Director, Community Safety provides the Committee with a briefing note or report on the work of the Domestic Violence Partnership and the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

44. CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES, INCORPORATING CULTURAL STRATEGY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES STRATEGY

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation accompanied by the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships.

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

- Members asked what measures were in place to mitigate cost barriers preventing people from accessing leisure services. Officers responded that they would create an Active Lifestyles strategy to align with the funding that would become available, e.g. via Sport England. In addition, a blended offer would be made to communities. Not everyone would want to attend a formal leisure facility such as a swimming pool. The new strategy would include free facilities such as outdoor space, which was not always used to its full potential currently. The Council had good relations with Primary Care providers in delivering leisure services, which could reduce the costs of long-term healthcare.
- There was a strong link between the Active Lifestyles Strategy and the Think Communities approach. A communications specialist would be appointed to help market the City's leisure offer and help communities recover from the pandemic safely and become active again.
- There were several opportunities to make use of the Lido outside of the summer season, e.g. for concerts. These ideas had been discussed with Friends of Peterborough Lido and officers would welcome any further suggestions. Options for the Lido would be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in the future.
- Members commented that funds spent on tackling the Climate Emergency should be aligned with community ambitions. Specific concerns were raised over a possible increase in traffic caused by a new activity centre in Ferry Meadows. Ambitions for new facilities needed to be balanced with the need to be Carbon Neutral. Officers acknowledged the environmental effects of new facilities and highlighted the importance of making facilities 'hyper local'.
- Members requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships provided the Committee with the roadmap for exiting lockdown and re-opening leisure facilities in Peterborough. Bretton Waterpark would be re-opening and the date would be confirmed with members after the meeting.
- Members asked why there was no mention of the Cresset theatre in section 4.33 on page 24 of the agenda pack. Officers responded that discussions regarding the

theatres were still ongoing. It was important that Peterborough's three theatres had complementary programmes that did not compete with each other.

- Members commented that the Council should invest in cycling infrastructure and work with Inland Waterways to renew canal links.
- Members thanked officers for including a reference to veterans in the report.
- Members suggested that the Council worked with the John Clare Countryside Project to promote this area of the City. The Cabinet Member and officers were supportive of this and relevant meetings were taking place.
- Members requested that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships provided the Committee with a briefing note on plans to develop a holiday club for children including how this would be funded, what the criteria would be for children to qualify and if ward councillors would be provided with contact details for those organising the scheme. It was noted that this was the responsibility of the Education team. The scheme was government funded and designed to extend food support alongside holiday activity support.
- Members asked when the new Culture Strategy would start to inform thinking, given the COVID-19 pandemic. Officers responded that there was positive and practical activity underway in this area and Arts Council funding was available to start delivering immediately. The Culture Strategy would require time to develop, but it was hoped that the Consultation could begin in July. It was important to take into account possible public caution in returning to cultural activities and it was felt that the summer was a good time for this work to be ongoing.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. Scrutinise the current approach being taken by Peterborough Ltd and City Culture Peterborough
2. Endorse the approach set out in section 4.2 to refresh the Active Lifestyles Strategy, including agreeing its involvement in its development, and agreeing to receive formal reports on its progress throughout the next municipal year
3. Comment on the Vision and Values document which will underpin the emerging Cultural Strategy, as a formal part of the consultation process
4. Request that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships provides the Committee with the roadmap for exiting lockdown and re-opening leisure facilities in Peterborough.
5. Request that the Service Director, Communities and Partnerships provides the Committee with a briefing note on plans to develop a holiday club for children including how this would be funded, what the criteria would be for children to qualify and if ward councillors would be provided with contact details for those organising the scheme

45. INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AMONGST COUNCILLORS

The report was presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to Promote Equality and Diversity Amongst Councillors which gave committee members the opportunity to comment on and endorse the interim recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

It was noted by the Democratic Services Officer that the Committee was being asked to recommend the proposed Code of Conduct to the Constitution and Ethics Committee before going to Full Council.

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

- Members suggested that a system of 'voting buddies' could be introduced to enable a Member's vote to be cast while away on parental leave. Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Aitken, proposed to recommend that the Task and Finish Group considers the adoption of a system of voting buddies for absent Councillors. This recommendation was UNANIMOUSLY agreed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Recommend to Full Council the adoption of a Parental Leave Policy for Councils as set out in this report and attached at Appendix 1
2. Recommend to the Constitution and Ethics Committee, and on to Full Council the adoption of the new LGA Model Code of Conduct, including the additions made by the Task and Finish Group as detailed in the report and attached at Appendix 2.
3. Recommend that the Task and Finish Groups considers the adoption of a system of voting buddies for absent Councillors.

46. PORTFOLIO PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The report was presented by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health, accompanied by the Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding and the Assistant Director, Adults and Safeguarding. The report enabled 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 expressed concern about the wellbeing of residents following the COVID-19 lockdown. Officers responded that there had been a focus on formal care homes but they were conscious of the importance of family carers during the pandemic and the pressure they were under. Officers were prepared for increased demand on services from informal carers seeking support and other service users. The Cabinet Member echoed these comments and stated that support for 'hidden carers' was a key part of a new 'Caring Together' campaign.
- Members requested more information on the status of the £397,000 workforce funding grant. The Cabinet Member responded that this funding had been fully spent. It had been distributed among social care providers to help them meet costs, e.g. lateral flow tests. It was never difficult to spend grant money but identifying future funding sources could be difficult.
- Members asked what additional funding was in place to support workers in care homes. Officers responded that there was short term funding in place but this was not the case in the longer term. The Government was currently reviewing arrangements. The Cabinet Member added that a 10% funding uplift had been granted to all care homes and domiciliary care. Staff retention was an issue in the care sector. There were budgetary challenges in maintaining additional funding levels.
- Officers added that the Government had produced a white paper on Health and Social Care with the aim of tackling the issues raised above.
- Members raised concerns that community-based support groups were being disbanded as lockdown ended and sought reassurance that adequate support for

people was in place. The Cabinet Member responded that there was no intention to disband the Peterborough Hub and it would continue to encourage community organisations to provide ongoing support to residents.

- Members asked if a reduction in referrals from hospitals was a cause for concern. Officers responded that the pandemic led to a restructure of Adult Social Care services. This involved investment in other services and there had been a reduction of referrals to the reablement services. The support that was required was often more health based rather than social care based. There was no cause for concern.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the update on the work of adult social care during the year 2020/21 and the results of the 2020 service user survey, published in December 2020, and the learning and actions arising.

47. ADULT SOCIAL CARE ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2019-20

The report was introduced by the Head of Integration accompanied by the Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding and the Assistant Director, Adults and Safeguarding. The report, which is required by statute, summarised the Adult Social Care complaints and compliments received between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020.

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

- Members praised the report and the culture of learning from mistakes and asked if independent 'dip sampling' took place. Officers responded that 'dip sampling' was not used. All complaints were reviewed by the Service Director, Adults and Safeguarding and the Assistant Director, Adults and Safeguarding (Cambridgeshire County Council) Jackie Galwey and feedback was provided on any lessons learnt.
- Members requested that the Service Director and Assistant Director, Adults and Safeguarding considers the use of 'dip sampling' by an independent body to assess the effectiveness of the Council's ASC complaints procedure.
- Members noted that improvements had been made following complaints regarding failures to communicate information and asked what the feedback had been on these changes. Officers responded that this was difficult to answer as overall complaint levels had dropped due to the pandemic. Workers had been positive about the changes although further improvements to communications might be required.
- Members asked if the Council had incurred any financial loss as a result of complaints. Officers responded that there was ordinarily no compensation paid until a complaint was escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO). Out of the two complaints that were upheld by the LGO, one resulted in no compensation being paid and the other resulted in a small payment for undue distress. No substantial sums had been spent on compensation.

ACTIONS AGREED:

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

1. Note the summary of Adult Social Care complaints and compliments received between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and the learning and actions taken as a result
2. Request that the Service Director and Assistant Director, Adults and Safeguarding considers the use of 'dip sampling' by an independent body to assess the effectiveness of the Council's ASC complaints procedure.

48. **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.

It was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would chase up actions outstanding noted on page 6 of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2021.

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. Request that the Democratic Services Officer chases up actions outstanding noted on page 6 of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2021.

49. **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.

CHAIRMAN

7pm – 8.54pm

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