

# scrutiny

focus on performance

**REPORT OF:** The Chair of Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**REPORT TO:** Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**ON:** 11th April 2012

**RE:** End of Year report for Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

In December 2010, the Council faced unprecedented budget reductions of up to £48M over the next four years. Reviews of all aspects of the Council's business were underway or planned. At the first meeting of the new municipal year, Members were provided with a copy of the "Transformational Agenda" report which outlined the current position with regards to savings. The Executive Members outlined their confidence in delivering the budget challenges agreed at Finance Council and the progress made by efficiency service reviews in their Portfolio areas, explaining their satisfaction and confidence with their portfolio positions, emphasising the challenges to the budget with the need to meet 100% of the targeted savings, and the overall budgetary position of the Council.

Members choose the following topics and timelines over which to scrutinise their topics.

Topic	Timeline	Completed
Children's – Youth Offending Team (YOT) service – increase in YOT numbers	Sep-Feb	✓
Children's – Increase in Not in Education and Employment (NEET) and impact of changes to the Connexions Service	Sep-Feb	✓
Adults – Development of the Centre for Independent Living (CIL)	Sep-Dec	✓
Adults – Personal Budgets	Jan-Feb	✓
Culture, Leisure and Sport – re:fresh	Sep-Feb	✓

## **2. Final Recommendations**

### **Children's Task and Finish Group**

#### **Youth Offending Team service – increase in YOT numbers**

1. That the Executive Member demonstrates that despite funding cuts the Youth offend Team (YOT) service remains a high priority for Blackburn with Darwen and the partnership and to demonstrate how YOT is working with others to address the gaps where funding has ceased.
2. That the Executive Member invites the new Police and Crime Commissioner to demonstrate how YOT funding will remain a priority in BwD.
3. That the Executive Member demonstrates how preventative work undertaken via schools identifies high risk pupils and what support is offered to these young people.
4. That the Executive Member ensures that the young people within the YOT service have access to the new Youth Zone facility and its services.
5. That the Executive Member promotes the positive work undertaken by YOT service through the local media.
6. That the Executive Member demonstrates that training and support for volunteers in supporting young people continues.
7. That the Executive Member monitors the number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice system to assess the value of the current Targeted Youth Support (TYS) offer following the ending of the dedicated Youth Justice Board (YJB) approved Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) service.

#### **Increase in Not in Education and Employment (NEET) and impact of changes to the Connexions Service**

1. That the Executive Member monitors the NEET figures and updates the committee the impact of the budget cuts on the Connexions service.
2. That the Executive Member demonstrates that reducing NEET remains a key target for the Council.
3. That the Executive Member demonstrates through the Connexions service how hard to reach individuals who are NEET are being targeted and supported.
4. That the Executive Member explores opportunities with the Connexions service in developing a team of volunteers to support the Connexions service and reports this progress back to the Committee.
5. That the Executive Member demonstrates how the development of the Risk Of NEET Indicator (RONI) is being used proactively to reduce the potential young people becoming NEET.
6. That the Executive Member explore how the offer of wider vocational subjects can support the reduction of NEET and report this progress back to the committee.
7. That the Executive Member develops an appropriate local work experience service of effective length for all students from Year 10/11 to replace the nationally funded work experience scheme fro students.

8. That the Executive Member develops a service offer similar to one at Darwen Vale High School known as Pupil Advice That Helps (PATH) into all secondary schools e.g. make it a priority through school councils.
9. That the Executive Member demonstrates what measures the Connexions service offer to support young people with NEET emotionally.
10. That the Executive Member demonstrates how the use of better signposting through neighbourhood learning centres has led to better support of those who are NEET and transition to Adult support.
11. That the Executive Member undertakes a consultation with all stakeholders in 2012/13 and demonstrates that a specific focus is given to young peoples views in developing the future service for those who are NEET.
12. That the Executive Member explores and demonstrates how the use of a variety of social media can compliment the Connexions service.
13. That the Executive Member demonstrates how the portfolio / partnership is targeting young people who are NEET in deprived areas.

Councillor Ron O’Keeffe  
Chair of Children’s Task and Finish Group

### **Adults Task and Finish Group**

#### Development of the Centre for Independent Living (CIL)

1. That the Executive Members demonstrates the accessibility and availability of CIL service for all adults and user groups.
2. That the CIL Board markets a vision for the CIL over the next 12 months.
3. That the Executive Member and the CIL Board explores the appointment of an independent Chair and report back to the Committee with its findings.
4. That the Executive Member undertakes a consultation with all stakeholders in 2012/13 and demonstrates that a specific focus is given to service users in developing, delivering and leading the CIL.
5. That the Executive Member ensures a multiagency approach in the Project Board and demonstrates how the partnership in its delivery.
6. That the Executive Member demonstrates how the CIL will run as a competent viable business in its own right.
7. That the Executive Member identifies a separate town centre site for the CIL so that the CIL is seen as separate to the Council and reports progress back to the Committee within the next municipal year.

#### Personal Budgets

1. That the Executive Member and portfolio demonstrate how they are prioritising training of social workers in selling Personalisation.
2. That the Executive Member and portfolio set as default position to offer a managed direct payment to all new service users and those when re-assessed.

3. That the Executive Member demonstrates relationships to the CIL and the development of a service to provide increased peer network/support to users.
4. That the Executive Member and portfolio updates its literature regarding personalisation and ensures it is available in an easy to read format.
5. That the Executive Member demonstrates how working with BwD Clinical Commissioning Group can help in supporting personalisation and the integration with personal health budgets
6. That the Executive Member and the portfolio explore the options regarding upgrade of the SWIFT computer system, better interface with other systems, to help reduce bureaucracy and give more time to social workers with clients and report findings back to the Committee.
7. That the Executive Member continues to re-negotiate block contracts to spot contracts as part of its on going service transformation and reports progress back to the Committee.

Councillor David Foster  
Chair of Adults Task and Finish Group

### **Culture, Leisure and Sport Task and Finish Group**

#### re:fresh

1. That the Executive Member demonstrates that despite the funding cuts re:refresh remains a key priority and that it continues to receive appropriate funding.
2. That the Executive Member seeks to ensure that re:refresh continues to be a priority with the Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group.
3. That the Executive Member ensures that re:refresh is able to maintain and build on local health partnerships, despite changes to the NHS, and adds value to health improvement at both population and neighbourhood level for example through inclusion and integration in Health Checks and Community Orientated Primary Care.
4. That the Executive Member demonstrates that the re:refresh service provides clear and concise information to the public about what is free and what is not free following budget pressure / cuts during the year.
5. That the Executive Member and the portfolio demonstrates how they will continue to build relationships with the third sector, community groups and sports clubs to provide sustainable increased participation, and health and wellbeing.
6. That the Executive Member demonstrates through performance standards the impact of raising the profile of the re:refresh health and wellbeing brand e.g. through [www.refreshbwd.com](http://www.refreshbwd.com), smarter use of social media and better signposting of re:refresh in health settings e.g. in GP surgeries and medical centres / hospitals
7. That the Executive Member demonstrates relationships with schools; building on the opportunities offered through the council's management of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Community Use to increase participation.

8. That the Executive Member demonstrates how re:refresh continues to target and work with identified groups including those in the 25% most deprived areas; women and BME communities.
9. That the Executive Member continues to set relevant targets locally to ensure focus and attention from April 2013.
10. That the Executive Member demonstrates how the re:refresh community engagement strand maximises the once in a lifetime opportunity offered through the London 2012 Olympics.

Councillor Michael Law-Riding  
Chair Culture, Leisure and Sport Task and Finish Group

## **2.1 Recommendations already agreed and submitted to the Executive**

### **Children's Task and Finish Group**

#### Caseload

1. That the Committee commend the commitment and dedication of Social Work staff to continue to deliver similar levels of professional service despite significantly diminished resources, and
2. That the Portfolio produce and share their strategy for dealing with numbers should capacity be reached and
3. That the Portfolio develops and produces a strategy which will enhance and further improve Early Intervention Services in order to keep more families out of Social Care and
4. That the Committee be advised how the Portfolio will meet the requirements set out in both the Laming Report and the Munro Review with diminished resources.

#### Social Worker Cuts

1. That frontline services continue to be a priority focus of the authority's diminished resources.
2. That the Portfolio consider further innovative yet safe ways of highlighting other staff to support and deliver a consistent, quality priority service.

Councillor Ron O'Keeffe  
Chair of Children's Task and Finish Group

### **Adults Task and Finish Group**

#### Telecare

1. That the Portfolio look at accelerating the use of Telecare with existing service users who meet the eligibility criteria.
2. That the Executive Member should actively look at increasing publicity around Telecare for those clients who are eligible to use it.
3. That that Portfolio should accelerate the development of the Independent Living Service as a source of information for non eligible clients.

#### Re-model of Day Care Services

1. That the Committee commend the staff for ensuring a smooth transition and the continued high quality of service delivery for service users following the re-model.
2. That the Portfolio should explore ways in which it can promote greater uses of personalisation amongst service users who are currently using more 'traditional' ways of accessing services.

#### Mental Health Service Re-model

1. That the Portfolio develops a contingency plan, that allows for the continued smooth running of Mental Health Services should the Care Trust Plus funding come to an end after two years.

Councillor David Foster  
Chair of Adults Task and Finish Group

#### **Culture, Leisure and Sport Task and Finish Group**

##### Economies of Scale

1. Share best practice to achieve the required economies of scale that have been set.
2. That the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Sport report to the Children's and Health, Overview and Scrutiny Committee when the anticipated economies of scale for the Portfolio are achieved, and continue to report by exception any areas that underperform.

##### Working Across Pennine Lancashire

3. That the Portfolio ensures, that there is a robust and cohesive management system in place, that makes certain that all staff working across Pennine Lancashire are aware of protocols and procedures for accessing services outside Blackburn with Darwen.

##### Leisure Services

4. That the Service undertakes a consultation process with service users which will show how the new ways of working have impacted upon them and report the findings back to the Children's and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

##### Library Services

5. That the portfolio explore more cost effective ways of delivering paper copy resources through the use of digital and Information Technology for public use

##### Witton Park

6. That the Portfolio actively recruits volunteers to support lone working staff in order to eliminate risks of lone working.

Councillor Michael Law-Riding  
Chair Culture, Leisure and Sport Task and Finish Group

### 3. Synopsis

It will be useful for the Annual Review in April, to gather Scrutiny Members comments and views on how successful the Committee has been in its first year operating under new arrangements.

What differences do you think the Committee has made in its scrutinising of the Portfolio(s)?

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What has helped the Committees progress throughout the year?

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What has hindered the Committees progress throughout the year?

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What improvements would you suggest for the Annual Review.

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Do you feel that by choosing the topic of **Youth Offending Team (YOT) service – increase in YOT numbers** the Committee has:-

<b>STATEMENT</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Ensured this scrutiny topic will demonstrate an efficient use of public money					
Better met the needs of citizens					
Been led and owned by Members not officers					
Influenced, developed or reviewed policy					
Contributed to the “improvement agenda” e.g. Performance Agreement.					
Ensured corporate priorities are met.					
Engaged - - Public - Partners - Press					

Do you feel that by choosing the topic of **increase in Not in Education and Employment (NEET) and impact of changes to the Connexions Service** the Committee has:-

<b>STATEMENT</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Ensured this scrutiny topic will demonstrate an efficient use of public money					
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Ensured corporate priorities are met.					
Engaged - - Public - Partners - Press					



Do you feel that by choosing the topic of **Development of the Centre for Independent Living (CIL)** the Committee has:-

<b>STATEMENT</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Ensured this scrutiny topic will demonstrate an efficient use of public money					
Better met the needs of citizens					
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Influenced, developed or reviewed policy					
Contributed to the "improvement agenda" e.g. Performance Agreement.					
Ensured corporate priorities are met.					
Engaged - - Public - Partners - Press					

Do you feel that by choosing the topic of **Personal Budgets** the Committee has:-

<b>STATEMENT</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Ensured this scrutiny topic will demonstrate an efficient use of public money					
Better met the needs of citizens					
Been led and owned by Members not officers					
Influenced, developed or reviewed policy					
Contributed to the "improvement agenda" e.g. Performance Agreement.					
Ensured corporate priorities are met.					
Engaged - - Public - Partners - Press					

Do you feel that by choosing the topic of **re:refresh** the Committee has:-

<b>STATEMENT</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>
Ensured this scrutiny topic will demonstrate an efficient use of public money					
Better met the needs of citizens					
Been led and owned by Members not officers					
Influenced, developed or reviewed policy					
Contributed to the "improvement agenda" e.g. Performance Agreement.					
Ensured corporate priorities are met.					
Engaged - - Public - Partners - Press					

**Councillor Ron O’Keeffe**

**Chair of Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

**Councillor Michael Law-Riding**

**Vice-Chair of Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

**Contact Officer**

Mohsin Mulla x5757