

**CHILDREN AND HEALTH
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 21st March 2012**

PRESENT – Councillors O’Keefe, Entwistle, Mahmood, Riley, D. Smith, Solkar, Taylor, Law-Riding, Julie Slater. J. Smith, Gee, John Slater, D. Foster.

Also Present –

Councillor M. Bateson	Executive Member Children’s Services
Councillor M. Khan	Executive Member Adult’s Services
Councillor D. Talbot	Executive Member Culture, Leisure and Sport
Mike Zammit	Link Chief Officer
Andrew Lightfoot	Managing Director Local Government Services
Gladys Rhodes-White	Strategic Director Children Services and Education
Lisa Bibby	Director of Schools and Learning
Steve Tingle	Director of Adult Commissioning and Personalisation
B. Simpson	Chair of School Governor Forum
Jean Baxendale	Chair of BwD LINK
Andrew Harrison	Team Leader, BwD LINK
Mohsin Mulla	Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

30 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies from Councillors Abdul Patel, John Wright, Patricia Harrison and Janie Berry were recorded.

31 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th January 2012

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

32 Declarations Of Interest in items on this Agenda

Declarations of Interest received from:

Councillor Taylor – Personal Interest – Agenda Item 4 – Transformational Agenda ‘RAG Report’ Adult Portfolio

33 Work of the Executive - Transformational Agenda and Portfolio Budgets

Children's Portfolio

The Executive Member for Children's Services provided Members with an update on the overall budget portfolio position and on areas of the Transformational Agenda. The Executive Member informed the Committee that there was likely to be a slight overspend on the Children's budget.

The key points discussed by the Committee are broken down into three areas below.

Some of the main impacts of the budget cuts:

- Early intervention / prevention services
- Third sector funded programmes
- Children centres
- family support services in schools
- move of services to statutory levels
- prioritised and protected statutory services
- But biggest impact is on families and children and young people.

There have been investments and positives:

- Think Family model
- Re-recruited 1 independent reviewing officer IROs support in relaying child's wishes back to social services
- Supporting vulnerable groups where we can e.g. recycling school uniforms
- we have reduced the number of children in our care
- Your call consultation

Future challenges:

- Schools are using the pupil premium to focus on attainment
- Review of formula grants – schools budget is likely to be reduced further
- Think family – business critical services linked
- EMA, financial support
- Youth groups, play groups, fewer places for people to go
- Less services and less support out there for families
- Impact of welfare reforms
- YOT – reduction in budget to BwD – bigger pot for police crime commissioner
- Debt – money management
- Impact of losing asylum seeker contract
- to reduce overall numbers against an increased demand
- New adoption target will be to complete the process by 12-14 months, this will have to be balanced – do we hit the new target or we work in the best interest of the child – this is a key decision

- reduction in pupil numbers – due to new schools – budget pressures – schools are being very cautious about budget commitments

Culture, Leisure and Sport Portfolio

The Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport Services provided Members with an update on overall budget portfolio position and on areas of the Transformational Agenda. The Executive Member informed the Committee that the Leisure portfolio would deliver a balanced budget.

The Executive Member informed the Committee that the only amber from transformation programme report was that of the Community Centres transfer. The Executive Member updated that the Committee that licensing agreements were now signed off by Legal Services.

The key points discussed by the Committee are broken down into three areas below.

Some of the main impacts of the budget cuts

- Reduced council and PCT funding for refresh
- Library and museum service – lost mobile library – due to expense of replacing vehicle
- There has been a reduction of hours in services provided, leisure, libraries, museums, arts
- One off cuts in library book fund
- Over the 2 years £1.7 million in savings with £1million in year 1
- Turton Tower increasingly reliant on volunteers,

There have been investments and positives:

- No buildings closed
- Use of volunteers has helped us
- Blakeys good investment – feedback on updates, menu has so far been positive
- Good performance in services an achievement
- Leisure centres 30% reduction in hours but only 7% reduction in usage so positive story
- Refresh partnership – good
- Pilot scheme – Edgworth – Saturday mornings – run by volunteers

Future challenges

- pressures due to economic downturn - challenging environment
- KGH – promote more bigger events
- Attract more to KGH and will lead to impact on wider economy as it helps support the other businesses in close proximity, KGH amazing asset - cultural asset
- Northgate – number of conferences both from the Council and private sector has reduced

- Income developments – increase direct debit payments, use of targets, increasing membership
- Provide good leisure facilities, people want to live in nice green areas, socially
- Recruitment of new director - focus of role will be a leadership role in managing savings – no additional cost to budget

Adult's Portfolio

The Executive Member provided Members with an update on the overall budget portfolio position and on areas of the Transformational Agenda.

The key points discussed by the Committee are broken down into three areas below.

Some of the main impacts of the budget cuts

- Reduction in 5 day centres to 2
- Volume of workload
- £6.6 million of cuts
- Cuts could lead to impact on quality

There have been investments and positives:

- Cuts have been made but impact has been kept to a minimum to those people who need to access council adult social services
- Positive story and uptake of telecare / telehealth
- Positive story re reablement – quality of assessment – helping people to live independently
- Positive story re personalisation – keeping people out of residential homes / nursing homes

Future challenges

- To negotiate 75% of budget is commissioned services
- Demographics – people are living longer
- Long term social care funding – government needs to make decision and prioritise
- Transforming services in cuts will change service delivery and will impact in the longer term
- Pressures on social workers re bureaucracy of systems and processes, SWIFT system discussion re requirements etc needed and decision re future

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the Transformational Agenda and budget updates for the Children's, Culture, Leisure & Sport and Adult Portfolios be noted.

34 Dementia

The Chair informed the Committee that the Dementia Task and Finish Group had met on Thursday 15th March. It was reported that the Task and Finish Group had a very good discussion and debate and that key issues raised would be fed back to Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and Blackburn with Darwen Teaching Care Trust Plus.

The Chair provided the Committee with a possible work plan of priorities for the task and finish group mainly;

- Invite and meet people with Dementia for their views
- Invite and meet with Service Users of the range of services provided
- Invite and meet Carers
- Invite and meet with Service providers
- Invite and question Drs / Consultants / Specialists / Nurses etc.

Possible area of work to consider as part of future Task and Finish Group work programme:

- Transport
- GPs role in early identification – early diagnosis
- Understand the journey of services provided
- Look at community services provide in BwD
- To look at care homes that provide dementia services
- Third sector involvement / support
- Future demand

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the update of the Task and Finish group be noted
- 2) That the next Task and Finish group meeting will be in the next municipal year following the first meeting of the Children and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

35 LINK Report

The Chair of the BwD LINK updated the Committee of the work undertaken by the LINK during the year 2011/12. The following key points were highlighted to the Committee:

- A number of Task and Finish groups have delivered a lot of positive work and outcomes
- Engaged with a number of residents, patients and gathered their views
- Patient transport survey completed and published
- publicised free parking for Blue Badge holders at the hospital

- currently participating and supporting the shadow health and well-being board of which BwD LINK is a member of
- Supporting development work to new HealthWatch as LINK's transfer to HealthWatch

RESOLVED –

- 1) That BwD LINK be thanked for their presentation.
- 2) That BwD LINK be invited back to the Committee at a future date to update on progress.

36 **End of year Report**

The Chair presented to Members, the Committees end of year report for 2011/12. Members were invited to consider any recommendations that the Committee wished to put forward to Policy and Corporate Resources Committee.

The five topics looked by the Committee's Task Groups were:

1. Refresh - Leisure
2. Personal budgets - Adults
3. Development of the Centre for Independent Living - Adults
4. Youth offending team – Children's
5. NEET / Connexions service – Children's

The Chairs of the Task and Finish groups were:

- Children's– Cllr Ronald O'Keeffe.
- Adults– Cllr David Foster.
- Leisure– Cllr Michal Law-Riding.

Each Chair updated the Committee on their respective topics with Members being invited to offer their views and comments on the information they had received and to consider recommendations for submitting to the Executive Member.

Members discussed the information and recommendations they had received and agreed that the recommendations be submitted to the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the recommendations be submitted to the Policy and Review Committee for approval.
- 2) That the Committee thank the excellent work done by all services reviewed during a difficult year and through transformation.

- 3) That the Scrutiny Officers, Supporting Officers and Members be thanked for their support.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....