

**HEALTH AND ADULTS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 22nd January 2014**

PRESENT – Councillors O’Keeffe (Chair), Riley, D.Foster, Humphrys, Smith, Daley and Groves

Also Present –

Cllr M Khan	Executive Member for Health and Adult’s Services
Dominic Harrison	Director of Public Health
Linda Newsham	Head of Health Protection
Steve Tingle	Director of Adult Commissioning and Personalisation
Gifford Kerr	Consultant in Public Health
Ben Aspinall	Scrutiny Manager
Rebekah Mercer	Scrutiny Support Officer

RESOLUTIONS

22. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillors Brookfield, Hollings, Sidat and Jacqueline Slater.

23. Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November 2013

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

24. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

No Declarations of Interest were received.

25. Executive Member for Health and Social Care

The Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, along with the Director for Public Health and the Director for Adult services were welcomed to the meeting. Members were provided with an update on the Health and Adult Social Care portfolio budget position, the Bi-Annual update on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Public Health Delivery Agreements for 2013-2015.

The Executive Member presented to the Committee an overview and update on his portfolio budget position, highlighting a number of items for Members attention.

Members were informed that the Health and Adult Social Care portfolio was currently showing a significant under spend, however it was noted that the portfolio was working towards a two year budget settlement and that a large part of the under spend was committed in the 2014/2015 budget. It was further noted that his portfolio was expected to have a balanced budget over the two years.

Members questioned whether there was subsequent money left in the Health and Adult Care budget to satisfy any additional demand, with particular regards to the Disabled Facilities Grants. The Executive Member for Health and Adult's Services reported that at this point, money was available and any further demand for services such as aids and adaptations could be met through existing budgets. He added that additional monies were being applied for from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to be put in to Disabled Facilities Grants, as it was felt that early intervention to keep residents in their homes for longer offered improved quality of life and value for money.

In response to a query from Members, the Director of Adult Commissioning and Personalisation, informed the Committee about future housing projects such as Shorey Bank, Infirmary and Greenways, adding that they would bring in capital receipts and was expected to take approximately 6 months for the procurement and then an additional 15 months to build.

Members discussed the role and remit of Healthwatch and how it would work alongside the Council. The Executive Member for Health and Adult's Services informed the Committee that Healthwatch would be a government funded body which was to be the voice of the community; recording complaints, possible causes for concern and giving legal advice. He added that Healthwatch would work on behalf of the Council, and would have powers that the Public Health department would not, such as the authority to enter hospitals. The Scrutiny Manager informed Members that the Healthwatch panel would report their findings and expenditure to the Local Authority.

The Executive Member for Health and Adult's Services informed Members that good progress was being made in delivering the Health and Wellbeing Boards five key priorities, but acknowledged that this was ongoing and that there was still some way to go. It was reported that additional community engagement would be beneficial to ascertain the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Blackburn with Darwen residents, but with further budget cuts expected in 2015-16, there would be limitations as to how this could be put in to practice.

It was reported that the majority of the expenditure for Public Health this year had been on inherited NHS contracts. Members were informed that decisions on where the money was and would be spent was based on the Kings Fund Model, and in a survey of 52 first tier Local Authorities, Blackburn with Darwen was showcased as the most innovative in its use of resources.

The director of Public Health and the Director of Adult Commissioning and Personalisation reported to Members that there had been a steady increase in

mental health problems throughout Blackburn with Darwen and noted that there was research that correlated such illnesses as anxiety and depression with times of recession. They reported that whilst life expectancy for the residents of Blackburn with Darwen was on a steady incline, the largest debilitating illness currently was depression. They further advised that illnesses such as depression and anxiety were strongly linked to heart attacks in later life.

Members raised concerns that the recent Welfare Reforms may have had a disproportionate effect on those with mental health problems and, and enquired as to where they could go for help.

In response, the Director of Public Health advised that Public Health was looking to put resources aside, together with the CCG, so that residents would have access to immediate and effective help. They advised that if these illnesses could be treated in the first instance, there would be a vast improvement in quality of life, less long term health implications such as risk of heart attacks and as a result, long term savings would be made.

The director of Public Health presented the Public Health Investment Plan to Members and then invited any questions from the Committee. Members questioned if research had been carried out on the effects of Welfare Reform on children and if Public Health had engaged with the service users.

The Director of Public Health reported that there was some national research investigating the effects on children but that nothing locally had been completed as of yet. He further noted that there were current and ongoing engagement strategies to get out in to the communities to hear the residents views. The Executive Member for Health and Adult's Services reported that he felt utilising social media would be beneficial for community engagement.

RESOLVED

1. That the executive Member for Health and Adult Services be thanked for his attendance, and;
2. That the budget report for the portfolio be noted
3. That the report of the Health and Wellbeing be noted, and;
4. That the Director of Public Health be thanked for his attendance and his report on the Public Health Investment Plan.

26. Vaccinations and Immunisations; Post Discussion Review

The Director of Public Health, alongside the Head of Health Protection and the Council's Consultant in Public Health, were asked to clarify to Members defined local arrangements and their importance on whether local immunisation providers are aware of the key contacts in the new system.

The Director of Public Health reminded Members as reported to the Committee on the 13th November 2013 (minute item 20 refers) that the Council currently acts in an advisory capacity for the vaccination and immunisation service. He advised that local arrangements were clear but very complex and as a result of the complexities; there were risks such as ill aligned data flows being lost and that it was felt that capacity, accountability and alignment had been affected by the NHS reforms. He further advised that it was felt these vulnerabilities were at a system level and that whilst the system was working, there was much improvement that could be made.

The Director of Public Health informed the Committee that writing to the Secretary of State to alert central government that cross partnership works were required would be very beneficial. He further noted that he would be happy to help draft this letter on behalf of the Committee to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Members questioned whether it would be advisable to request that the vaccination and immunisation service was overseen by the Local Authority. The Director of Public Health and the Council's Consultant of Public Health reported that as there was already a very good working relationship between the Council and local GPs, it would be favourable for the Public Health department to commission, rather than deliver, the vaccination and immunisation service.

RESOLVED

That the Director of Public Health and the Scrutiny Manager would draft a letter to the Secretary of State for review by the Committee at the next meeting to relay to central government the benefits of cross partnership working in regard to the delivery of vaccination and immunisations.

27. Committee's Work Programme

The Scrutiny Manager reported that a significant piece of research had been carried out to support the Committee's work programme outlined on pages 46 and 47 of the agenda.

This report would provide Members with web links to a number of Blackburn with Darwen's Nearest Neighbour Comparator's;

- Health and Wellbeing Board general membership and information
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy Documents
- Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) Documents

The Scrutiny Manager advised that it had still not been possible to secure a Peer Review Visit to any comparative neighbouring Authorities. He informed Members that the links provided would supply the majority of the required information without the necessity of a visit, as all their published information would allow Members the means to review each Authorities best practice,

potential outcomes and to identify if this could be applied to Blackburn with Darwen.

RESOLVED

That the web links from the project outlined above are divided between members of the Committee and research on each Authority is completed identifying areas of best practice and best outcomes that can be utilised by Blackburn with Darwen

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....