

**PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 11 JUNE 2018**

PRESENT - *Councillors: Liddle (in the Chair), Whittle, Daley, Slater Jaq, Gee, Afzal, Akhtar P, Sidat, Smith D, Richards and Oates.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – *Councillor Maureen Bateson, Councillor Brian Taylor, Elle Walsh (Youth MP), Linda Clegg, Dominic Harrison, Robert Arrowsmith and Phil Llewellyn.*

1. Welcome and Apologies

Following introductions the Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. The Role of Scrutiny

The Chair outlined the role of scrutiny, making reference to the extract from the Constitution submitted with the agenda. Reference was also made to the Scrutiny Handbook, and it was suggested that if the latest version of this could be found (2014 was thought to be the most recent) that this be circulated to the Committee.

4. Oversight of Corporate Plan and Forward Plan

Members, in particular the newly elected Members, were given details of the important role of both Corporate Plan and the Forward Plan in the scrutiny process, and the latest versions were included in the agenda for the meeting.

5. Executive Member's Reports on 3 Key Issues for the Year Ahead and Top 3 Risks

The Executive Member for Children and Young People, Maureen Bateson, and Linda Clegg, Director of Children's Services, reported on the top three priorities for the Portfolio:

- Improving outcomes for all children and young people through proportionate support and intervention – in school and in the wider community
- Ensuring services for children and young people are of good quality (Inspection Readiness) in particular in terms of Special Educational Needs & Disability and Safeguarding

- Effectively addressing the increasingly complex needs of children and young people, especially adolescents

The top three risks were identified as:

- The high demand for services and high workloads for staff, particularly social workers, retention of staff and the loss of the current Director and other senior management
- Budget pressure and uncertainty/volatility
- Preventing adverse school inspection judgements in a school-led improvement system

Members of the Committee debated the key issues and priorities and a common concern was Mental Health of young people and it was suggested that a Task and Finish Group should be established to look at this area. Councillor Bateson advised that it may be appropriate to also take account of the Adolescent Review being undertaken which also had linkages to Mental Health.

Elle Walsh updated the Committee on the work undertaken by the Youth Forum in relation to Mental Health on positive initiatives such as the two Mental Health Nurses for schools.

Councillor Brian Taylor, Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health, reported on the key priorities for the Portfolio, which were:

- Place-based Integrated Health and Social Care Transformation
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- Children and Child Dental Health
- Mitigate deteriorating local Health Outcomes including Life Expectancy

The key areas of risk were identified as:

- Rising poverty and inequality
- Cuts to 'health-relevant' investment
- NHS transformation for efficiency
- Public Health Grant Budget cuts

A further presentation was delivered on the challenges and opportunities for Adult Services.

Mental Health again emerged as a key concern for Committee Members, as did isolation and it was felt that there were linkages between the two areas.

Dominic Harrison agreed to circulate to the Committee the latest Public Health Annual Report (2016/17) which detailed the principal Public Health challenges in the Borough, the opening chapter of which outlined the authority's prevention approach involving Social Movements for Health.

RESOLVED – That the Executive Members be thanked for their presentations.

6. Legacy Item- OFSTED Plan Update

The Chair congratulated all concerned on the recent successful OFSTED inspection and asked the Director of Children's Services to update the Committee on progress in implementing the Action Plan produced in response, noting that 9 of the 12 actions were the responsibility of the Department, with the remaining 3 actions the responsibility of the Local Safeguarding Board.

Linda Clegg updated the Committee on progress to date, and advised that 3 of the 9 actions would be more appropriate for the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group to consider.

The Chair indicated that this item would be a standing item on each agenda of the Committee moving forward, in order that the Committee could monitor progress of the actions outlined in the Plan.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

7. Work Programme for 2018-2019

The Committee discussed the Work Programme for the year ahead. Young persons Mental Health, as discussed earlier in the meeting, had been identified as a key area, with Members of the Committee suggesting that particular areas of focus could include:

- The journey of a young person into adulthood
- Apprenticeship and SEND and services for young people
- Marketing and support for young people regarding the mental health services available

It was suggested that the Corporate Parenting Specialist Advisory Group look at the ways the Council could support Children in Our Care in terms of Work Experience and Apprenticeships.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to discuss Work Programme areas at the next meeting, but that for the September meeting the main item would be Mental Health, which cut across Portfolio areas and that the Task and Finish Group on Young People’s Mental Health report to that meeting. As discussed earlier, the OFSTED Action Plan would be a standing agenda item.

RESOLVED – That remaining Work Programme areas be discussed at the next meeting, with the September meeting looking at Mental Health as a key focus area, with the Task and Finish Group on Young People’s Mental Health reporting in to that meeting, and that the OFSTED Action Plan update be a standing agenda item.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....