

PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 2 December 2019

PRESENT – Councillors; Liddle (In the Chair); Hussain, Oates and Smith.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE -

Also in Attendance

Cllr Maureen Bateson – Executive Member for Children’s Services

Joanne Siddle – Head of Education

Sayed Osman – Director of Adults and Prevention

Asad Laher – Head of Governance

Liz Clarkson – Youth Work Programme Officer

Uday Akram – Youth MP

Amine Gherensi – Youth Forum Member

Sarah Patel – Youth Forum Member

RESOLUTIONS

1 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllrs P Akhtar; Afzal; Salton and Whittle. Apologies were also received from Jayne Ivory and Dominic Harrison.

2 **Declaration of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Feedback from the Youth Forum

Councillor Bateson informed the Committee that the Takeover Challenge that was held on 28th November 2019 had been very successful and positive feedback had been received.

The Youth MP and two members of the Youth Forum also informed the Committee that the event was organised to raise awareness of knife and gang crime and whilst it was not a major problem in Blackburn with Darwen, there had been a number of tragic incidents over the years.

The Committee heard that the event was sponsored by the Our Community Our Future Board and that the Youth Forum had arranged for guest speaker Hezron Brown, who was a youth worker and motivational speaker from Birmingham, to open the event. Hezron himself overcame a life of crime and homelessness to help steer young people away from gangs and violence. More recently he had recently won the Pride of Britain award.

Discussions also took place around the Bright Spark Initiative which was an annual bonfire night safety campaign. In previous year there had been a high percentage of incidents relating to fires and fireworks. This year a different tactic was used with unmarked vehicles roaming the hotspots in Blackburn and Darwen. Cllr Smith was pleased to report back that the incidents had reduced this year as a result.

4 Children's Services- Delivering the Corporate Priorities Service Development Practice Plan

The Committee received a report which set out how the department sought to ensure that the Corporate Priorities were embedded in their work. The Committee heard that the Board met on a monthly basis and was chaired by the Director of Children's Services with all Heads of Services and Service Leads across the department attending to share RAG rated progress updates. In addition, the Local Government Association representative attended to provide external support challenge.

The Committee heard that the team consulted with 60 management staff at a business planning event to reflect on the corporate ambitions and set the departmental priorities for 2019-20. In addition, a further 10 priorities for 2019-20 were agreed. These were highlighted in Appendix A which was included in the agenda.

A Service Development and Practice Improvement Plan was also developed to set actions against the priorities and a Service Development Practice Improvement Board had been established to monitor the progress of the plan. The Plan was marked as Appendix B and was included in the agenda.

The Chair concluded that everything seemed to be working well and that an update should come to the next meeting in March.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and that the item come back with a 2nd quarterly update at the meeting to be held on 9th March 2020.

5 Age well Strategy

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Adults and Prevention, providing an update on the Age Well Strategy.

The Director of Adults and Prevention touched on the background of the Age Well Strategy, explaining that the Age Well Partner was part of the Health and Wellbeing Board delivery within the life course along with Live Well and Start Well, and worked as a multi-agency to deliver corporate priorities. There was an annual workshop to review progress and priorities, with the priorities being RAG rated.

The Committee heard of the Age Well Priorities, in particular the following were highlighted;

Age Friendly Place – 'International Day for Older People' had recently been celebrated and some of the feedback received in terms of making the Borough more able to support older people included the need for older people to have somewhere to sit in the Town Centre, accessible toilets, being able to get a

glass of water if needed, assistance packing shopping bags, not being rushed, asking people to be patient and a bit more kind.

Dementia – This was a growing problem and the need to promote awareness was a priority, especially in frontline and public facing services. So far 21 Elected Members had been trained on Dementia Awareness with the remaining Members to receive training shortly. The group were looking to increase support for people with early onset Dementia and widen promotion of activities for people living with Dementia.

Social Isolation – With an increased number of places closing down there had been a rise in social isolation. The group were working with Local Integrated Partnership and PL Integrated Care Partnership to develop social prescribing opportunities. The group were looking to promote local cultural events whilst ensuring organisers supported age friendly policies. The Committee were informed of the challenges faced around transport and that the group were looking to explore and improve connectivity ensuring transport was able to support older people accessing events and services.

Digital Inclusion – The Committee heard that there would be an increased network of digital champions to assist older people. There would also be Champion opportunities for intergenerational support such as linking in with scouts and schools.

Poverty and Housing – The Committee were informed that the group were looking to promote access to advice and information services for older people and that opportunities provided through the Healthy Homes Offer would be maximised.

Promoting Health Life Expectancy – In some cases, this was an underlying result of poverty and housing and therefore the group were looking to actively promote flu jabs and other screening, actively promote 5 ways to wellbeing, working with partnerships to increase and develop volunteering opportunities and to reinforce and promote a proactive approach to falls prevention.

Oversight of End of Life Care – The group were working with Pennine Lancashire Integrated Care Partnership to ensure improvement in end of life care. The group would also be looking to host a conference to promote better appreciation of cultural awareness and understanding choices.

The Committee were also informed of the challenges ahead, in the main being, the increase in demand and complexity of need, especially as the financial situation became ever more difficult.

Discussions took place around transport being a major concern for older people feeling isolated especially as a lot of routes had been stopped now. It was suggested that Community Transport such as Dial-A-Ride be promoted. The Chair also mentioned that previously older people had been supplied with slippers that prevented them from slipping and it was agreed that these be explored.

The Committee noted the next steps and asked that the Director of Adults and Prevention come back to a future meeting to provide a further update.

RESOLVED – That the Committee note the update and that the Director of Adults and Prevention be invited back to a future meeting to provide a further update.

6 Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Members were informed of the requirement to appoint a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Lancashire County Council, South Cumbria County Council and Blackpool Borough Council as required under The National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012).

Members were reminded of the work of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System which was working on the reconfiguration of health provision in the region. This reconfiguration aimed to improve health outcomes for residents in the area and would lead to changes in the way that services were delivered both in hospitals and in the community.

The establishment of the Joint Committee was a requirement of the Act where a relevant Health Authority consulted more than one local authority's health scrutiny function about substantial reconfiguration proposals.

The Draft terms of reference for the proposed Joint Health Scrutiny Committee had been drawn up for consideration and were included in the agenda for Members perusal. These were being presented to each of the constituent bodies that would make up the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED –

- That the report be noted and the Terms of Reference be approved;
- That Members submit any views / comments to Asad Laher and Paul Conlon; and
- For the report and any additional comments to be taken to a future Executive Board meeting and then to Council Forum, for consideration

Signed:

Date:

Chair of the meeting
at which the minutes were confirmed