

Minutes of a meeting of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 2 June 2015.

PRESENT

Mrs. R. Camamile CC	Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC
Mr. M. H. Charlesworth CC	Ms. Betty Newton CC
Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC	Mr. A. E. Pearson CC
Mr. S. J. Hampson CC	Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC
Mr. D. Jennings CC	

In Attendance

Mr. R. Blunt CC, Lead Member Heritage, Leisure and Arts (Minute 10 refers).
Mr. D. Houseman CC, Lead Member for Adult Social Care (Minute 11 and 12 refers).
Paul Burnett, Independent Chairman of the Safeguarding Boards (Minute 11 refers).
Mr. J. Kaufman CC, Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Panel (Minute 12 refers).

1. Appointment of Chairman.

That Mrs. R. Camamile CC be appointed Chairman of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2016.

(Mrs. R. Camamile CC in the Chair)

2. Election of Deputy Chairman.

That Mr. S. D. Sheahan CC be elected Deputy Chairman of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2016.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions received under Standing Order 35.

5. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that no questions received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

6. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

7. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr S.D. Sheahan CC declared a personal interest that could lead to bias with relation to the report from Scrutiny Review Panel on Help to Live at Home (item 12 refers) and undertook to leave the room during discussion of this item.

There were no other declarations.

8. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the party whip.

9. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 36.

10. Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services. Report of the Director of Adults and Communities.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adults and Communities, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the progress made with communities who have been assessed as meeting the County Council's conditions to enable them to manage their community library, and those where no Registration of Interest (ROI) has been received, or a registration of interest or outline business plan had been submitted and subsequently withdrawn. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Blunt, Lead Member for Heritage, Leisure and Arts, Mr Jon Wilson, the Director of Adults and Communities and Mr Nigel Thomas the Head of Service, Communities and Wellbeing to introduce the report and answer questions.

In response to questions members were advised as follows:-

- (i) There was some slippage on the required MTFS savings as a result of the process of transferring libraries taking longer than had been anticipated. A non-recurring contingency of £330,000 had been set aside to accommodate this slippage. The Cabinet Lead Member stated that he had advised the Leader and the Cabinet colleagues of the slippage. He added that the fact that the Cabinet had noted and accepted the delay in the savings requirement showed the commitment of the Administration to ensure, as far as possible, that all communities were able to work with the Council and take over the management of the local libraries.
- (ii) The issue of developer contributions (Section 106 monies) was the subject of a briefing note to local communities. The County Council's request for developer contribution would be based on the new service delivery model

and any funds received would need to be used for the library affected by the development. To that end the Locality Support Officer would work with the library concerned to discuss the impact of the development and how this could best be addressed. Part of this discussion could include the addition of stock or funding for other plans that would meet the needs of the community using the library.

- (iii) The County Council was proposing a further round of engagement with those communities that had not put forward a bid or had put forward a bid which was deemed unacceptable or had been withdrawn. It was hoped that the work currently being undertaken by Voluntary Action Leicester in building community capacity plus the experience of groups in other localities who had put forward successful bids would serve to encourage people/groups to come forward. Regarding the issue of deprivation as a factor preventing people coming forward the experience across the County and elsewhere would suggest this was not necessarily the case.
- (iv) It was difficult to predict and generalise about the long term sustainability of communities operating library services. An analysis of the bids submitted to operate libraries had shown that communities were aware of the challenges ahead and their business plans were robust. The Cabinet Lead Member indicated that he was confident that the majority of the libraries would be sustainable in the long term but that it was likely their role would change over time and they became more of a community resource with a range of activities taking place in the library buildings.
- (v) Alternative services for areas where an acceptable outline business plan had not been submitted had yet to be explored. Amongst the options under consideration would be closure with replacement by a mobile service, a smaller more targeted service etc. it was hoped as a result of the next round of engagement this would not be the case. At the point where alternatives needed to be developed, the Council would need to ensure it had undertaken a robust EHRIA to understand the impact of a change on protected groups and any mitigating action that might be taken. In this regard the Cabinet Lead Member urged elected members and parish councils to provide leadership to their local communities so that a successful transfer of the library service could be achieved.

Members welcomed the report, the good progress that had been made and commended officers for the work they had undertaken with local communities in developing their outline business plans. Members welcomed the further round of engagement with those communities that had not submitted a business plan but were keen to ensure that these communities did not receive preferential treatment.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the progress made to date on working with communities to manage their local libraries be noted;
- (b) That the Cabinet be advised of the comments now made and that the committee supports the recommendations set out in the report.

11. Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adult Board Business Plans 2015-16.

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Boards, the purpose of which was to bring to the Committee's attention the Business Plans 2015-16 for Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Board (LRLSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (LRSAB) for consultation and consideration. Due to the nature of the Committee's work and function only Business Plan for Safeguarding Adults Board was discussed. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 11' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Paul Burnett, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Boards to introduce the report and answer questions and Mr. D. Houseman, Cabinet Lead Member for Adults Social Care to comment on the report.

The Independent Chair explained this year there was a need to disaggregate plans for LRLSCB and LRSAB to reflect the changes in the policy brought about by Care Act 2014. Although the priorities for delivery of the plans remained the same as the previous year, the actions underpinning the delivery of the priorities had changed.

The Director for Adults and Communities reiterated that significant progress had been made in adult safeguarding prior to the Care Act, which had now introduced statutory obligations for local authorities including the statutory duty to respond. Over the next 12 months, the intention was to achieve a personalised approach to safeguarding adults in order to ensure it was not perceived as bureaucratic.

Mr Houseman, the Cabinet Lead Member stated that paragraph 1.2, page 45 of the report did not include information or specific training for elected members on making safeguarding referrals. He further advised that paragraph 2b.3, page 47 should include "domiciliary care" with regards to priorities set out to ensure that adults are receiving safe care in their own homes as well as in the residential establishments and that ongoing work was underway to make guidance clear.

Members welcomed Mr Houseman's comment particularly in relation to member training and support on what constituted a safeguarding issue and the process to be followed.

The following points were raised with regards to the report:-

- (i) The Ann Craft Trust had produced a report on the reasons for increases in the number of adult safeguarding alerts in 2013/14 that included a range of recommendations for the future recording and monitoring of safeguarding alerts, contacts and referrals. These recommendations would be considered by the Safeguarding Adults Board at its meeting in July 2015.
- (ii) Work was under way on how the process of making safeguarding referrals could be focused and directed at the right audiences. In this regard the Committee was advised of the importance of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) as single point of contact to enable a more effective response and to develop a threshold on when it would be appropriate to make a referral.

- (iii) That members of public were provided with a range of means to report safeguarding issues including the internet, telephone number and pocket-sized information cards were regularly distributed.
- (iv) Concerns that transition from children to adult services might result in some service users falling through the gaps of the system, was recognised and to that end bespoke complex training was being provided to staff to tackle this issue.
- (v) The concerns of Healthwatch Leicestershire regarding the importance of better communication and joint working between organisations involved in safeguarding was recognised and was an area under constant monitoring and review.
- (vi) That a role of the Adults Care Manager would have an audit function to provide a professional and practical leadership on the Help to Live at Home (HTLAH) project, so that common standards were applied to all care settings.

RESOLVED:

That the Business Plan for Local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board 2015-16 be noted.

12. Final Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Help to Live at Home.

The Committee considered the Final Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Help to Live at Home which set out conclusions and recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review Panel investigating into Help to Live at Home project to develop, re-commission and implement a model of care to support people better to live independently and provide an improved care experience, better care outcomes and more cost effective service delivery. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 11' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed the Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Help to Live at Home, Mr. J. Kaufman CC to the meeting to introduce the report and answer questions.

Mr Kaufman began by thanking all members who had served on the Panel, and the officers who had supported the Panel. He hoped that the report would be a useful first step in bringing together health and social care bodies to focus on the homecare market, an area which needed investment and development, given the increasing number of people now living in their own homes.

The Director and Cabinet Lead Member welcomed the findings of the Panel and concurred with the recommendations and direction of travel.

In response to questions, members were advised as follows:-

- (i) The reasons for limiting the number of providers in each area was to ensure that more time was spent on developing a strategic relationship with a smaller number of providers aimed at improving

quality rather than spending office time on monitoring a large number of small contracts.

- (ii) Developing a stronger relationship with a few key providers would enable these providers to obtain a degree of certainty about the level of business, thereby enabling them to invest in staff, both in terms of training and improved terms and conditions of work. The County Council in its commissioning arrangements would be seeking assurances in this regards.
- (iii) There was little by way of subcontracting in the homecare market.
- (iv) Locality commissioning would be based on the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust Community Health Teams, as this would provide an opportunity for closer working between homecare providers, locality health and social care teams as well as GP surgeries. Such an approach would mean a more coordinated and person centered approach but would also take into account the needs of the locality and communities served.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Help to Live at Home be supported and that the recommendations therein be referred to the Cabinet for consideration;
- (b) That the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive further updates on the Help to Live at Programme at key milestones during the project.

13. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Commission would be held on 1 September 2015 at 2:00 pm.

2.00 - 4.00 pm
02 June 2015

CHAIRMAN