

**Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting:** 11th June 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor McInnes (Chair)  
Councillors Creaser, Eaton (substituting for Morris), Fletcher, Gill (substituting for Bleakley), Hughes, Knowles, Kenyon, Milling, Oakes, Pilling, Procter, and Shipley  
  
Irene Divine (Co-opted Member)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Rebecca Lawlor, Health and Housing Manager  
Nicola Armitage, Inspire  
Zoe Houston, Inspire  
Andrea Stead, Inspire  
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Barnes, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships  
Councillor Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environmental Health  
Councillor Marriott, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Robertson  
  
2 Members of the Public

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bleakley and Morris and Keith Pilkington (co-opted Member).

**2. MINUTES**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items for discussion.

## **5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

## **6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting in the new municipal year.

Members were informed that at the recent meeting with the Rossendale Commissioning Lead, it was suggested that a visit be arranged for new Councillors to the new Primary Care Health Centre, including the new Minor Injuries Unit. Once a date had been formalised the Scrutiny Officer would contact members to make arrangements. There would also be an official opening of the new Minor Injuries Unit and information would be sent to members once a date had been agreed.

## **7. PRESENTATION FROM INSPIRE**

Representatives from Inspire attended the meeting to update Members on the new abstinence unit which would be opening in Waterfoot in July 2012.

Inspire service is provided by three organisations, CRI (Crime Reduction Initiatives), Acorn and Work Solutions.

- CRI look after the main body of services –prescribing, therapeutic interventions, 1-1s.
- Acorn have experience in group work and housing
- Work Solutions help with education and employment

Services on offer include, substitute prescribing, detox, 1-1 therapeutic work, harm reduction - to reduce harm while working their way through the recovery journey and outreach in the community.

The Recovery Home which would open in Waterfoot at the end of July will also be available in other parts of East Lancashire - Clitheroe, Burnley, Nelson and Accrington.

The recovery house would be a 6 bedded unit, staffed 24 hours a day with a live-in caretaker, 2 full time support workers and 8 volunteers.

The House would cater for 18 years and over, with clients in the main, self-referring to the service. Funding was provided through Supporting People and East Lancs Drug and Alcohol Team (ELDAAT).

Clients go through Inspire before entering the Recovery House and as part of the contract they are not allowed visitors. Group therapy will be

provided between 10-4pm three days per week and they would encourage clients to undertake Maths and English. On Fridays, over their evening meal, they discuss and plan what to do over the weekend ie cinema, walks, picnics.

Clients will live in the house for 3-6 months and would be tested each morning for drugs/alcohol. If they were tested positive then they would be served with 24 hour notice to leave and transferred to another establishment.

There are 1800 clients accessing services in East Lancashire, with between 350-400 clients from the Rossendale area. The Recovery House was for local people to get better in their local place.

Members were informed of the numerous pathways for supporting clients with drug and alcohol issues.

Members raised a number of questions which representatives from Inspire responded.

The Committee was very impressed with the services on offer for Rossendale people and the Chair thanked representatives from Inspire for their informative presentation.

**Resolved:**

That information packs would be sent to all Members once received.

**8. RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Councillor Barnes as Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnership provided a verbal update on the recommendations within the report of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group.

She informed the Committee that Cabinet accept all the recommendations within the report.

The Chair raised concern about the response from Lancashire County Council in relation to funding for domestic violence and the Leader indicated that the Council, as well as LCC, provide domestic violence funding and that there would be further discussions with County at the three tier forum meeting to ensure continued joint working.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee note the acceptance of Cabinet to the recommendation of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group.

2. That the Leader report back to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of the three tier forum discussion and provide further information on funding for the service in Rossendale.
3. That the Leader thanked the Chair and Members of the Task and Finish Group for their work.

#### **9. RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Councillor Barnes provided a verbal update on the recommendations within the report of the Young People Services Task and Finish Group, indicating that Cabinet accept the element which was the responsibility of the Council. She indicated that a meeting had been arranged with Lancashire County Council Cabinet Member for Young People to discuss the recommendation of the report, which in the main were the responsibility of County.

The Leader informed the Committee that the Council would continue to monitor the outcomes of cuts to the young people services.

Resolved:

1. That the Leader report back to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of the meeting with Lancashire County Council to the recommendations of the Young People Services Task and Finish Group.
2. That the Leader thanked the Chair and Members of the Task and Finish Group for their work.

#### **10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12**

The Chair presented the Annual Report for 2011/12, which was a combined report of the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Task and Finish Groups and other relevant scrutiny information.

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that the report would be presented to the Full Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Chair and members of Overview and Scrutiny for the volume of work they had undertaken over the last twelve months.

Resolved:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12 be noted.
2. That the report be presented to the Full Council for approval.

## 11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Committee considered the ideas put forward by members of the public, elected members and Council Officers.

The Leader reminded the Committee of the need for the Council to make savings of £1.3m from its revenue budget, which would be undertaken in an open and transparent way. A report would be presented to Cabinet at the end of June.

The projects for inclusion in the 2012/13 Work Programme were agreed as follows, taking into consideration the financial position of the Council.

**Street Cleansing Review** – This suggestion was put forward by both Councillors and the public and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at street cleansing as a whole to include dog fouling. This would be undertaken as part of a value for money review to look at any potential savings that could be made to the service.

**Benefit Fraud/Welfare Reforms** – It was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group later in the year, looking at what financial impact this could potentially have on the Council.

**Impact on the Closure of Stacksteads Recycling Centre** - It was agreed to undertake a light touch review later in the year once any impact may show ie increase in fly tipping.

Additional items on the work programme would be taken forward but not particularly through the scrutiny process as follows:

**Dog Warden Service** – At present this service was out to tender and it was therefore agreed that Performance Scrutiny would receive an update report six months after the new contract had been awarded, to evaluate the service including value for money.

**Tourism** – The Leader agreed to put together a brief strategy document in place and that this would be discussed further at the Leaders meeting.

A suggestion by a Member was to extend the tourist information point at Fitzpatrick's in Rawtenstall to other areas of the Borough.

**Contract Management** – It was agreed that there would be a presentation on the current procurement practice to a future Audit and Accounts Committee and any concerns be brought back to Overview and Scrutiny for further review.

**Security around the Borough** – This would be picked up by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at the December meeting when the performance of the Community Safety Partnership and Police statistics would be presented to the meeting.

In relation to the Community Toilet Scheme, a member suggested that this could form a small part of the Accommodation report.

A suggestion was made by a member of the public that the Council should open its own buildings up to allow the public to use their toilets ie one stop shop.

Other areas ie Mayoralty and Accommodation would be picked up as part of savings review, which would be undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny throughout the year.

Resolved:

That the Work Programme for 2012/13 be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 and closed at 8.50pm.

Signed .....  
(Chair)

Date .....