

Minutes of: PARTNER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 10th June 2013

PRESENT: Councillor McInnes (Chair)
Councillors Cheetham (substituting for Shipley),
Fletcher, Kenyon, Knowles, Morris, Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Derbyshire, Healthwatch Lancashire
Brian Pickup, First Responder
Councillor Ashworth
Councillor Creaser
Councillor Gill
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

1 Member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Procter and Shipley and Irene Divine, Co-opted Member

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4TH February 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to an amendment to Item 8, which should read 'response from Lancashire County Council and not STAR'.

3. DECLARATIONS 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 members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed Members that at a recent meeting with representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group she asked that a

visit be arranged to the new Haslingden Health Centre and the Scrutiny Support Officer was waiting for a response to this request.

In relation to the Minor Injuries Unit, there was to be a public consultation on the proposals being put forward and this would commence at the end of June.

Members discussed the situation with Accident and Emergency Departments which are seeing an increase in attendance, instead of going to the Urgent Care Centre or Minor Injuries Unit. Members agreed that there appeared to be a lack of knowledge on what type of ailment should warrant attendance at a minor injuries unit and the need for additional information to be in the public domain to highlight this.

7. HEALTHWATCH

Karen Derbyshire from Healthwatch Lancashire gave an overview of the new service, which was set up as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Healthwatch was a new consumer champion for both health and social care and exists in two forms – local Healthwatch, at a local level and Healthwatch England, at a national level.

The aim of Healthwatch was to give citizens and communities a stronger voice to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided within the locality.

Healthwatch Lancashire has a Board of 9 directors and a staff team of 13, with the staff covering East Lancashire based in Burnley.

The two main functions are:

- a) Providing advice and information about access to services and support for making informed choices
- b) Gather the views and understand the experiences of people who use services and make their views known to those who need to know.

Members raised a number of questions and asked that concerns about Olive House and dentistry should be passed on to the relevant organisations.

RESOLVED:

That Karen Derbyshire be thanked for her presentation.

8. FIRST RESPONDERS

Brian Pickup, team leader for the First Responders in Rossendale, gave an overview of the work of the first responders, which covered Rising Bridge to Healey Dell.

First Responders are a team of volunteers who live and work in the local community. They are trained by North West Ambulance NHS Service to attend certain calls where time can make a difference between life and death. Such calls include chest pain, breathing difficulties, cardiac arrest, unconsciousness, fitting, blood pressure and diabetes emergencies. Responders provide care and support to the patient and relative until the arrival of an emergency ambulance.

In Rossendale there are 30 Responders, with 8 of them being Extended Community First Responders (ECFRs). In extreme cases they can perform Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or use the defibrillator to restart someone's heart. There are 9 kits throughout the Valley and whoever is on call takes the kit and at the end of the shift they take the kit to the next person who is on call.

Several of the volunteers have 4x4 to enable them to get to extreme places, such as farms etc.

First Responders are never sent to a call without the back-up of an ambulance. The team had recently been awarded the Queens Award for voluntary services to the community.

A number of questions were raised which Brian answered.

The Committee asked that special thanks be sent to the Rossendale First Responders and applauded their work.

RESOLVED:

That Brian Pickup be thanked for the very informative overview of the service.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

The Chair presented the Annual Report for 2012/13, 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 17th July 2013.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/13 be noted.
2. That the report be presented to Full Council in July for approval.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

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

The projects for inclusion in the 2013/14 Work Programme were agreed as follows, taking into consideration the financial position of the Council.

Public Transport: This suggestion was put forward by two Councillors. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with two Scrutiny Chairs and the two Councillors who put the idea forward and Rossendale Transport, to discuss accessibility for young and older people.

Patient Transport: This suggestion was put forward by a Councillor and it was agreed that North West Ambulance Service be invited to give a presentation on their role to a meeting in September.

Footpaths - LCC function: This suggestion was put forward by a member of the public and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at this further.

Road Maintenance – LCC function: This suggestion was put forward by a member of the public and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at this further.

Polling Districts and Stations: This suggestion was put forward by an Officer. It was agreed that a 'light touch' review be undertaken to coincide with the national review taking place.

Dog Warden: This piece of work was on the work plan last year and will continue to be monitored.

Housing – multi occupancy: This suggestion was put forward by Officers. It was agreed to keep as a 'reserve' item, time permitting.

Rogue Landlords: This suggestion was put forward by Officers. It was agreed to keep as a 'reserve' item, time permitting.

Taxis: This suggestion was put forward by the public and it was agreed to ask Corporate Scrutiny to look at Licensing Policies.

Fear of Crime in the Borough: This suggestion was put forward by the public. It was agreed that this would be monitored through the Neighbourhood Forums/Partner Scrutiny, with a view to undertaking a review if required.

It was agreed that the Welfare Reforms should be included in the Work Programme, as this had been carried over from last year.

RESOLVED: That the Work programme, as above, be approved and sent to Full Council for information.

11. PARTNER SCRUTINY TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair presented the Partner Scrutiny Terms of Reference, which had been approved at the Full Council Meeting in February 2013.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference of the Partner Scrutiny Committee be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.05pm

Signed
(Chair)

Date