

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 25 September 2013.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D Charles (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs G Birkin, S Freeborn, B Lewis, R Mihaly, D Walton and B Wright.

Mrs M Outram (Parent Governor Representative).

Ms C Tattersfield (Trade Union representative).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Frudd and Mr D Channon.

23/13 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24/13 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SAFEGUARDING**

Councillor P Jones, Deputy Cabinet member for Adult Care, Mr I Johnson, Deputy Strategic Director Children and Younger Adults and Ms M McElvaney, Assistant Director Adult Care attended the meeting to give an update on the impact of domestic violence on children and younger adults.

Information was given on the funding and services to specifically address the needs of children and younger adults impacted on by domestic abuse and the services provided by the Children and Younger Adults and Adult Care Departments and through commissioning.

Governance arrangements were highlighted where partnerships were the key to the structure and with a significant and wide breath of representation across the County. The Serious Sexual Violence / Domestic Violence Board met quarterly and brought together partners from Police, Adult Care, CAYA, Health Commissioners, Community Safety, Fire & Rescue, voluntary sector and provides the strategic direction for the Co-ordinating Group who develop the Strategic Plan and policy formation. The Co-ordinating Group reported to the Board and received reports from the local Domestic Abuse Action Groups; MARACs (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and the Serious Domestic Violence Conference Groups. The Co-ordinating Group also aimed to resolve operational problems through the Board.

Going forward, Adult Care had embedded awareness of domestic violence in the Safeguarding processes and the Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance and Toolkit was on the Safer Derbyshire website. Accommodation and Support contracts were working to capacity, with increased contracted support from 102 to 204 units whilst achieving a 14% saving on the contract value. Think Family Charter was being developed to remind staff in social care to consider all family members and report concerns to respective organisations. The Care Bill would bring Local Authority statutory responsibility for the Safeguarding Adults Board in 2014 with representation from the NHS and Police.

25/13 **CORPORATE PARENTING** Mr I Johnson gave a presentation on key progress issues affecting children in the care of the Council, the numbers of which stood at 638 at the end of July 2013. The report set out the current statistical position and the strategy for reducing the numbers of children in care. The key performance indicators were also set out.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

26/13 **FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN** Mr P Handford, Director of Finance, attended the meeting and gave a short presentation on the Five Year Financial Plan. The Five Year Financial Plan was a medium term financial plan which set out the overall shape of the Authority's budget by establishing how resources would be allocated reflecting the authority's and the community's priorities. The Comprehensive Spending Review had originally indicated that the Authority had to make £127m savings over the next 5 years. This in itself was a challenging target but recent changes indicated by Government had shown that the Authority had to make an additional saving of £30m, making a total of £157m.

The Director of Finance explained that the Council annually prepared forward financial plans for the 4 years after the current budget year. The plan took account of funding, known pressures, inflation and reserves projections and details of these were given in the presentation. Discussion also took place surrounding the risks and challenges and a table showing projected cuts that may need to be made was presented to Members.

Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any observations and ask questions, which were duly noted or answered by the Director of Finance. A further presentation would be made to the next meeting.

RESOLVED to note the report on the Five Year Financial Plan.

27/13 **HEALTHWATCH DERBYSHIRE** Ms J Dosanjh and Ms T Wright of Healthwatch Derbyshire attended the meeting to give an oral update on the establishment of Healthwatch in the County. At future

meetings, a written update report would be submitted in advance for circulation with the papers for the meeting.

Members were handed a copy of the reporting form that was being proposed and they were invited to submit any views on its content to Healthwatch via the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer. Members were reminded that Healthwatch were able to provide presentations on their work to any organisations in the county.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

28/13 WORK PROGRAMME The Committee was asked to consider the development of its 2013/14 work programme.

Working groups had now been established with membership as follows:-

Recruitment and Selection – Councillors D Charles, G Birkin, J Frudd and B Lewis.

Equality and Diversity in decision making – Councillors S Freeborn, R Mihaly and D Walton.

Safeguarding - Councillors G Birkin, D Charles, J Frudd and D Walton (members of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places would also be included in this working group).

RESOLVED that progress on the work programme be noted.