

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 31 July 2013.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D Charles (in the Chair)

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

Mrs M Outram and Mr B Thacker (Parent Governor Representatives).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr D Channon and Ms C Tattersfield.

17/13 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 March 2013 be received.

18/13 **DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER** Councillor C Neill, Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, attended the meeting to give an update on current issues within her portfolio. She gave an overview of the services that were provided, the key policy direction, the challenges faced, the required budget reductions and the priorities that were currently being worked on.

Members were invited to ask questions and these were responded to. The Cabinet member undertook to provide information to the Committee on:-

- The cost of rental for Extra Care housing provision.
- Sickness levels within the Adult Care Department and actions that were being taken to address this.

19/13 **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY IN DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** Mr G Spencer, Improvement and Scrutiny Officer, briefed Members on the role and responsibilities of the Committee and the operation of the scrutiny function in the Council.

20/13 **HEALTHWATCH DERBYSHIRE** Ms K Ritchie and Ms J Dosanjh of Healthwatch Derbyshire attended the meeting to make a presentation on the newly established Healthwatch Derbyshire, outlining the staffing and management arrangements for the organisation and what its role and responsibilities were. Healthwatch would hear what people would have to say about Health and Social Care services and would collect individual comments and record them. They would make these views known to those

involved in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of Health and Social Care services. The power of Healthwatch came from the collective voice of the people of Derbyshire and the more people who spoke out, the more Healthwatch would be able to speak up.

Healthwatch would be a regular item on the Committee's agenda and updates on the work of the organisation would be submitted to the Committee.

21/13 WORK PROGRAMME The Committee was asked to consider the development of its 2013/14 work programme.

A scoping report for a review of the Council's approach to equality, diversity and inclusion had been prepared in order to review the manner in which these were embedded within and delivered by the Council. The Chair circulated a note on this topic which she had prepared to illustrate the need for such a review. The Chair and Vice Chair had attended Employee Minority Network Groups and these had revealed a number of issues which may be seen as trends.

It was suggested that small working groups of members be established to look at specific areas of concern, starting with (a) how the Council considered equalities in decision making and service planning, and (b) recruitment and selection.

It was also proposed that work be undertaken on safeguarding issues, specifically domestic violence and also whether there were issues of concern around the sexual exploitation of Looked After Children.

All members of the Committee indicated their willingness to participate in working groups on these topics and it was suggested that 3 groups be established to look at the above matters. A meeting of all members would be held on the morning of 3 September to initiate the work and the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer would arrange for appropriate briefing material to be provided.

RESOLVED to initiate work as outlined above.

22/13 ROUND-UP REPORT A report was presented with a round-up of issues and projects relevant to the role and remit of the Committee. The report provided information on:-

- The Spending Round 2013 which set out the Government's spending priorities for the remainder of the current Parliament and into 2015/16.
- DfE consultation on a number of changes to strengthen existing Regulations covering Children's Homes and the safeguarding of Looked After Children.

- DoH consultation on (a) improving Corporate Accountability in Health and social care and (b) Caring for our Future: implementing funding reform.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Committee be kept informed of future developments relating to issues outlined.