

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

### Tuesday, 13 September 2016, County Hall, Worcester - 10.00 am

#### Minutes

#### Present:

Mr R M Udall (Chairman), Mrs E A Eyre (Vice Chairman), Mr A T Amos, Mr C J Bloore, Mr C B Taylor and Mr P A Tuthill

#### Also attended:

Mr J H Smith, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being  
Mr P M McDonald  
Mrs E B Tucker  
Tracey Onslow, Wyre Forest DC  
Lorraine Preece, Chief Executive Officer, YSS  
Mark Preece, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service  
Superintendent Kevin Purcell, West Mercia Police  
Claire Richardson, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner  
Amanda Smith, South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

Dr Frances Howie (Director of Public Health),  
Paul Kinsella (Strategic Co-ordinator, Community Safety),  
Martin Lakeman (Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator),  
Timothy Rice (Health and Well-being Manager, Directorate of Adult Services and Health),  
Jodie Townsend (Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) and Samantha Morris (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)

#### Available Papers

The members had before them:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated);
- B. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2016 and 1 July 2016 (previously circulated).

A copy of document A will be attached to the signed Minutes.

#### 941 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Lynne Duffy.

#### 942 Declaration of

None.

	<b>Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	
<b>943</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	None.
<b>944</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2016 and 1 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
<b>945</b>	<b>Annual Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Report</b>	<p>The Chairman welcomed the visitors to the Meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Manager was invited to update the Board on recent developments in relation to community safety. By way of introduction, the following areas were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Report set out Worcestershire County Council's role in relation to Community Safety S.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).</li> <li>• The S.17 function was led and co-ordinated through the Directorate of Public Health. There was a clear link to the Council's Public Health (PH) duties of improving the local population's health and reducing health inequalities that are often a consequence of crime, in particular violence and the abuse of alcohol and substance misuse.</li> <li>• Work was continuing on the Peer Review outcomes with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) considering specific recommendations.</li> <li>• The Safer Communities Board (SCB) was to become a signatory to a Joint Working Protocol which was currently in place between the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Well-Being Board.</li> <li>• The Worcestershire Community Safety Information Sharing Protocol between statutory agencies was in the process of being finalised.</li> <li>• In terms of crime/data monitoring, standardised Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) scorecards would be used to monitor crime trends (examples provided in Agenda pages 17 and 18).</li> <li>• The Council were responsible for the administration and support of the Police and Crime Panel which meets quarterly and had sub groups for reviewing the PCC proposed annual</li> </ul>

precept.

- County Council officers were working side by side with the Police and other agencies to manage safeguarding concerns via new Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub arrangements.
- Post Brexit, there had been an increase in reported Hate Crime specifically Racial/Religious Hate Crime. Local Authorities (LAs) and CSPs were working locally to try to reduce community tensions and monitor the situation.
- The new duties placed on LAs under the Counter Terrorism legislation have required the Council to review its approach to Prevent. A Worcestershire Prevent Strategy Group had been re-constituted by the Council to ensure that Prevent was being effectively embedded across the area.
- The Worcestershire Forum against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence had continued to work towards the prevention and reduction of both domestic abuse and sexual violence in all forms. An example of the Domestic Abuse Forum Newsletters was provided page 21 of the Agenda).
- NHS England, along with other partners, was the lead commissioner of health services for victims of sexual violence and rape, with Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in England, being where the health care and therapeutic pathways and wider Sexual Assault services were provided. The SARC, based in Bransford Worcestershire, was the main centre in West Mercia and it currently operated under contract to G4S. 211 Worcestershire residents used the SARC service in the last year.
- The Police were much more aware of sexual violence and CSE and had procedures in place to assist with identification. As a consequence, there had been a significant increase in the number of cases reported.
- There was currently a scrutiny looking into the 'Effectiveness of the Prevention and Recovery Drug and Alcohol Misuse Service', which commenced in March 2016.

In conclusion, the Board were advised that the County Council continued to meet its own duties relating to community safety as far as it reasonably could and made a significant contribution across Worcestershire and West Mercia through its leadership role and its commissioned services.

The new Directorate of Public Health would continue to ensure that systems assurance and rigour was embedded in the Council's responsibilities for community safety.

During the opportunity for questions, the following points were made:

- The PCC were looking to contribute some funding to a multi-agency approach to paediatric sexual abuse commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) starting on 1 October. They were also looking into a self-referral gateway to support victims who were reluctant to report crime to the police.
- The key crime and disorder priorities were:
  - Reducing reoffending
  - Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence
  - Drug and alcohol
  - Harm reduction
- Partnership working was effective albeit under a complex governance structure, but there was room for improvement. The North and South Worcestershire CSPs were also looking to work more closely together.
- Partners needed to have more of a focus on outcomes, avoiding duplication, sharing information with less funds.
- The PCC Scorecards would be useful in targeting funding.
- The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme - Clare's Law introduced in 2014, giving members of the public a 'right to ask' Police where they have a concern that their partner may pose a risk to them or where they were concerned that the partner of a member of their family or a friend may pose a risk to that individual had been successful.
- The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) which was the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's violence against women was also a successful initiative.
- MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), which combined up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victim's needs and identified and linked the provision of appropriate services for victims and their children in domestic abuse cases had increased by 56% in Worcestershire in the last 12 months and 502 cases (including 613 children) had been heard.
- Internet sex crimes was an issue in West Mercia

but one that was on the radar of the Police, who had had some success in this area, there were approximately 1 or 2 warrants per week issued by the Police. It was suggested that a lack of parental awareness was a contributory factor in some cases. The Domestic Abuse Forum was working with the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards on healthy and respectful relationships and was introducing a Toolkit, which had been developed by Solihull MBC.

- It was suggested that next year's report should include the total cost of community safety vs outcomes, in order that trends could be monitored in future years.
- Swanswell were the commissioned service provider, for the drugs and alcohol misuse service and were in year 2 of a 3 year contract. Year 1 was a transition year, Year 2 was about starting to see progress and the final year should see more definite outcomes.
- In terms of financial abuse of the elderly, the Police were now more robust in their approach and generally it was an issue where there was a greater awareness and increased publicity.
- The Fire Service was also well placed to help signpost people to services.
- A Member expressed the view that allegations of sexual violence and rape were easy to make but difficult to prove. The huge increase in reported sexual violence and rape was therefore not a true reflection of the situation in his opinion.
- In response to questioning from a Member, the Police confirmed that they take all allegations of sexual offences and rape seriously and on face value, as they would the reporting of any other crime. They did not share the Members view that allegations of sexual violence and rape were easy to make.
- It was confirmed that the Police were working very hard to develop a culture where victims were taken at face value and ensure that they were at the forefront of all thinking. Increases in reported crime were seen as positive affirmation of this as it demonstrated that people were confident in coming forward, knowing that they would be listened to and taken seriously.
- Channel was an early intervention multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremist or terrorist behaviour. Channel worked in a similar way to existing safeguarding partnerships aimed at

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protecting vulnerable people.

- There were also Channel Panel's which were chaired by local authority's and brought together a range of multi-agency partners to collectively assess the risk and decide whether a support package was needed. The group may include statutory and non-statutory partners, as well as lead safeguarding professionals. If the group felt the person would be suitable for Channel, it will look to develop a package of support that was bespoke to the person. The partnership approach ensured those with specific knowledge and expertise around the vulnerabilities of those at risk were able to work together to provide the best support.
- There was a new protocol in respect of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards had signed up to and had reinforced the statutory responsibility.
- Hate crime against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. (LBGT) community – this was a real issue following Brexit but there were strategies in place to deal with this and cases were being reported and appropriate support put in place.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and contributing to the discussion.

In light of the discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Lead Member for Crime and Disorder and the Chairman of HOSC would consider what if any further scrutiny was required in respect of support services in relation to sexual violence and rape and report back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned from 12noon until 12.10pm.

The Board was asked to consider a proposal for scrutiny of the 2017/18 budget.

The Proposal suggested that a scrutiny task group, led by Councillor Richard Udall, be set up as part of scrutiny of the 2017/18 budget.

Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) would be asked to hold discussions with Cabinet Members, service users and staff on the 2017/18 budget proposals at their meetings in November 2016. This would be followed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of OSPB leading a cross party group of members who would aim to provide in-

depth challenge to the Panel Chairmen on their findings.

The Scrutiny Task Group's final report would be considered by OSPB in January 2017.

The suggested Terms of Reference were:

- To examine how the Council is planning to meet funding reductions whilst delivering its Corporate Priorities.
- To consider whether the proposed budget is achievable and realistic, and meets residents' needs in the medium term.
- To consider the level of risk associated with the budget changes.
- To understand the impact on residents of the budget proposals and how they are being managed and mitigated.

It was agreed that the Scrutiny proposal was approved and that nominations for the membership of the Task Group should be sought from Group Leaders. Nominations should not be either a Cabinet Member with Responsibility or Group Leader.

The Initial training arranged for the Task Group would also be extended to Panel Chairman.

**947 Member Update and Cabinet Forward Plan**

It was agreed that Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel would be asked to consider the Local Transport Plan 4 – Public Consultation as detailed in the Cabinet Forward Plan.

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm

Chairman .....