

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Wednesday, 24 July 2019, County Hall, Worcester - 10.00 am

Minutes

Present:

Mrs E A Eyre (Chairman), Mr A A J Adams, Mr A D Kent, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr P A Tuthill and Mrs R Vale

Also attended:

Mr S J Mackay, Chairman of West Mercia Police and Crime Panel
Mr A C Roberts, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families
Mr J H Smith, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing
Derek Benson, Independent Chairman, Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board
Ellen Footman, Head of Safeguarding, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Children, Mental Capacity Act Lead, NHS CCG
Lloyd Griffiths, Chairman of the South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership
Tracey Onslow, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Preece, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Debbie Stokes, West Mercia Youth Justice Service, Worcestershire Manager
Detective Chief Inspector Emma Whitworth, West Mercia Police

Emma Brittain (Assistant Director of Family Front Door and Partnerships), Dr Frances Howie (Director of Public Health), Paul Kinsella (Public Health Practitioner), Tim Rice (Senior Public Health Practitioner), Tina Russell (Director (Designate) Social Care & Safeguarding), Sheena Jones (Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) and Samantha Morris (Scrutiny Co-ordinator)

Available Papers

The members had before them:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated);
- B. Presentation for the Annual Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Report (circulated after the Meeting)
- C. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 May and 25 June 2019 (previously circulated).

(Copies of documents A and B will be attached to the signed Minutes).

1105 Apologies and Welcome	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Mr C J Bloore and Mrs J A Brunner.</p>
1106 Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip	<p>None.</p>
1107 Public Participation	<p>None.</p>
1108 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 May and 25 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
1109 Annual Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Report	<p>The Board was asked to consider the Annual Update on developments in relation to Community Safety in Worcestershire. There was also an additional focus on the new GET SAFE support and protection approach to child criminal exploitation.</p> <p><u>The Annual Update on developments in relation to Community Safety in Worcestershire</u></p> <p>The Senior Public Health Practitioner introduced the Report and he reminded the Board of the Council's statutory responsibilities, which were summarised in the Report. Appendix 1 of the Report gave an update on the key areas of focus in respect of 2018/19 outcomes and activity.</p> <p>There was a requirement to adapt to changing community safety and criminal activity. The Council, as a significant Responsible Authority, was committed to further understanding the problems and finding preventative and operational solutions to minimise risk and harm to the population.</p> <p>The Directorate of Public Health and other Directorates would continue to ensure that systems assurance and rigour was embedded in the Council's responsibilities for community safety, but it was noted that there were increasing challenges in the system both for the Council and its partners.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Board was advised that the Council continued to meet its own duties relating to community</p>

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.

Main Discussion Points:

- the importance of the role of local councillors was emphasised in terms of local intelligence to inform and improve services. It was noted that the Community Safety Partnerships had a local ward and district focus and some Councillors sat on these bodies. Local Policing Teams also welcomed support from local councillors
- It was confirmed that at the present time, the dissolution of the West Mercia and Warwickshire Strategic Alliance was not having strategic impact on services. However, the Safer Communities Board was keeping a watching brief on this
- The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) explained that the Alliance had been set up 6 years ago, but there were some anomalies with the arrangement which were not acceptable to West Mercia. Local policing was split out in April 2019. The West Mercia Police and Crime Panel held the PCC to account and would continue to receive updates in respect of the Alliance
- Data monitoring of crime reduction strategies was referred to and how the Council was carrying out its monitoring role. The Senior Public Health Practitioner advised the Board that there were challenges around this and although there was a range of data available, it was used for different purposes. Looking ahead, the Council was looking to develop a data set in partnership with Police analysts that could be more meaningful for monitoring purposes.

West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP)

The Chairman of the PCP updated the Board on the recent work of the Panel.

At its last meeting, the Panel looked at the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Draft Annual Report, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) 'Peel: Police Effectiveness 2017 An Inspection of West Mercia Police' - Update Report, Police & Crime Plan Activity and Performance Monitoring Report (January - March 2019) and the

Commissioning Activity of the PCC Including the Changes to Victim Support Services.

The PCP also received briefings in respect of the dissolution of the Strategic Alliance and fire governance (as necessary).

The Chairman urged the Board to watch the PCC's holding to account sessions with the Chief Constable which were available on Facebook.

GET SAFE

Presentations on the Get Safe Agenda were made by the Independent Chairman of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Partnership, Assistant Director Family Front Door and Partnerships, Director (Designate) Social Care & Safeguarding and Detective Chief Inspector, West Mercia Police. Copies of the presentations would be circulated after the meeting.

'GET SAFE' was the Worcestershire name for the multi-agency support and protection for children and young people at risk of Criminal Exploitation. It brought together and identified criminal exploitation risks that children and young people faced today across the UK, including: Gang-related activity, Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, Modern day Slavery, Absent and Missing, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation, and Criminal Exploitation. The GET SAFE Partnership was committed to tackling Child Exploitation and supporting victims and their families who experienced this.

GET SAFE also linked to existing forums to ensure joined up working and identification of risk and vulnerability. These were:

- GET SAFE Strategic Group for wider strategic responses and overseeing GET SAFE Action Plan
- Missing Mondays that looked at the education issues for this group of young people
- Channel Panel (radicalisation of children and young people)
- Youth Justice – a new panel on criminal offending due imminently
- West Mercia MATES (tactical response)
- SOCJAG North and South (serious and organised crime)

The representative from West Mercia Police highlighted

that there was a lot of passion and motivation amongst partners for the GETSAFE agenda which was linking with national best practice too. The Strategic Vulnerability Team looked at all of the work across West Mercia and nationally. As a result of the Serious Violence Strategy, the Violence and Vulnerability Unit (an external Unit) offered three levels of support, which the PCC had commissioned and taken up all three levels of support offered. There was also the West Mercia wide draft Strategic Framework Review due to be disseminated shortly.

The Officers were commended on the presentations and it was suggested that District Councils should receive the presentations too.

Main discussion points:

- It was questioned whether there were any tangible improvements from the partnership working which could be identified as a result of GET SAFE initiative. Officers advised that it was too early to say
- It was confirmed that young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) were on the GET SAFE radar
- Multi-agency data sharing was not prohibited by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and was encouraged
- Whilst the cross-service approach was working well, the agencies involved were developing a new framework for assessments. The current one was based on early help and children assessments, hence focused on parenting capacity. It was planned to be able to use the new framework from January 2020
- Front line staff working directly with children were always encouraged to refer any concerns to the Family Front Door. In addition, guidance and tools were available on the GET SAFE website and information through the Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL) Network
- A Member suggested that it was also important to work with GP's to encourage information sharing and in response was advised that this was happening and over the last few years improvements had been seen.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting, the Board commended Officers on GET SAFE and were very encouraged by the partnership approach

1110 Performance and 2018/19 Year-End Budget Monitoring

to this very serious issue.

In summary, it was agreed that:

- The Board would be updated on the progress of the data set being developed in partnership with Police analysts to enable more meaningful monitoring of crime reduction strategies
- The Lead Member for Crime and Disorder would work more closely with the Chairman of the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel
- The GET SAFE presentations would be shared with District Councils and they would be encouraged to champion the initiative.

The Board was asked to consider and comment on the feedback from Scrutiny Panel Chairmen following the discussion of Quarter 4 (January – March 2019) performance monitoring and 2018/19 year-end budget monitoring information and determine whether any further information or Scrutiny on a particular topic was required.

Adult Care and Well-being Panel

The Chairman of the Panel had given her apologies and had provided an update for the Board which was read out by the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager.

Finance - Adult

- Overall, there was a £12.4m overspend due to increased client numbers and unit cost for older people, physical, disability, learning disability and mental health services
- Support services historic savings targets had not been achieved and were offset by an additional government grant
- Integrated Commissioning Unit - vacancies and additional grants and health contribution income received
- Improved Better Care Fund reduced call in contingency set aside for care price review with learning disability providers
- £0.602m reduction in forecast overspend since period 11.

Finance – Public Health

- Overall, there was a £0.10m underspend due to strategic functions staffing vacancies with within the Team and future fit savings offset by

investment in other Council services.

- Adult Services reduced spend against Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) contracts including sexual health, social prescribing and health checks
- Children's services investment in Council positive activities
- Council services increased public health investment on Public Health Ring-fenced Grant eligible Council services.

Future scrutiny meetings were going to be set to align with the financial calendar so that budgets could be monitored more efficiently.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Chairman of the Panel reported that although there had been an overspend of £8m on the Higher Needs budget this was not as high as other authorities. A recovery plan was required for this.

An overspend of £0.2m on adult learning was unexplained and had not been predicted.

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Chairman of the Panel reported that he was pleased with the budget and performance information being received by his Panel and looked forward to receiving more timely quarterly reporting, which he advised should be happening for January 2020.

The Directorate underspend of £4.69m, had helped to offset the Council's overall overspend for the year ending March 2019, which as reported to Cabinet in June was £2m.

There had been increased use of capitalisation, which was currently running at around £7.5m per year and £5m had been taken off the base budget. It was acknowledged that there were risks associated with this approach.

Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Chairman of the Panel reported that although there had been a Council wide financial challenge in 2018/19, the Directorate had achieved a £1.127m underspend, due to factors including additional income, lower than

		<p>anticipated spend relating to repair and maintenance, deleting vacant posts and reducing the number of placements on the Graduate/Apprenticeship Programme. In relation to Communities, there had been an overall underspend of £170,000, mainly due to one-off additional Public Health funding.</p>
1111	Refresh of the Scrutiny Work Programme	<p>The Board considered and approved the draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20 and it was agreed that it should be considered by Council at its September meeting.</p>
1112	Member Update and Cabinet Forward Plan	<p><u>Adult Care and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel</u></p> <p>The Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager read out the Panel Chairman's member update.</p> <p>The Panel was in the process of carrying out a Task Group in respect of Quality Assurance of Care and Nursing Homes and a Task Group about Care work as a career was due to start in September.</p> <p>The Panels' work programme detailed the other issues for future Scrutiny.</p> <p><u>Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel</u></p> <p>The Panel Chairman advised that the Panel had met twice in July and had looked at Libraries Remodelling, Councillors' Divisional Funding, Paper Reduction as well as Performance and In-year Budget monitoring.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he was disappointed with member attendance at Panel meetings.</p> <p><u>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u></p> <p>The Chairman of HOSC referred to the April meeting, when the Committee received an Update on the Quality Priorities for 2019-20 for Acute Hospital Services from the new Chief Executive of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.</p>
1113	Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined	<p>The Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager referred to the statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which followed on from the House of Commons Select Committee report of December 2017 and noted the written and oral evidence supplied to that Committee. It stated that Local authorities must 'have</p>

Authorities

regard' to the guidance when carrying out their functions and was attached as an appendix to the Report

The Board was asked to consider the Statutory Guidance and whether there were any areas where the County Council's approach should be reviewed and how it would like to deal with this going forward.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that that it would be helpful to have a Scrutiny Protocol which included quotes from the Chief Executive and Leader to set out the context and support for Scrutiny, build on the Nolan principles, identify training available and how Scrutiny dealt with confidential matters. The suggestion that there should be an annual event to review scrutiny and look forward was also supported.

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm

Chairman