

IP Scrutiny – Executive Responses Provided to OSC 2 February 2017

3.1.5 The Committee raised concern over a £160,000 budget gap as a result of the decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner to remove the Police contribution to Alcohol and Drug treatment of young people within the Probation Service.

The bid to the PCC was made by Children's Services with minimal input by Public Health Service (PH). PH has not been party to the feedback from the refusal of the bid, but it may be that Scrutiny may wish to seek the PCC's comments as part of a learning exercise. The whole Drug and Alcohol service for Children and Young People is currently being reconfigured following the Tonic Review commissioned by Public Health in 2016.

With the loss of the PCC grant over 98% of funding for this entire service comes from the Public Health budget. Various funding strands/grants will be worked into the reconfiguration of the service and it will be recommissioned in 2018.

Please note that the Public Health/Joint Community Safety bid to continue police and crime commissioner funding for drug testing on arrest is still progressing through the system.

5.5 The risk of Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs) funding ceases

This is a county wide concern and is likely to be raised at Special scrutiny on 8th February.

We are working through the STP process to try to mitigate this and identify those most important pathway approaches (e.g. cardiovascular, long term conditions, frailty) which can preserve health outcomes. Public Health is leading an STP wide prevention summit on 7th February specifically to seek to address this issue.

At some point members may wish to scrutinise each dimension of the STP including the CCG engagement in prevention

7.3.4 The Committee endorses the Authority's encouragement of recycling across the county via the Herts Waste Partnership.

The County Council has no obligation or legislative duty with respect to recycling targets, however, it works closely with the 10 district and borough councils through the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership to maintain and improve performance across the County and to promote the application of the waste hierarchy across service provision.

7.3.5 To consider the viability of disposing of business and commercial waste as well as household waste to provide an additional income stream.

In respect of the household waste recycling service provided by the County Council, this matter was discussed at the Community Safety & Waste

Management Panel meeting on 1st July 2016 (see link below) at Section 9, page 9. The commercial waste trial is ongoing but continues to operate at a net loss to the contracted operator.

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/416/Committee/53/Default.aspx>

7.3.6 The Chief Fire Officer to attend a future OSC to outline

- the cost and benefits of Rescue Service staff being trained in medical trauma care when responding to ambulance call-outs
- Day-Crewing Plus initiative

The trial is a National Joint Council (NJC) trial where it was agreed that participating FRS would not receive any additional funding for their participation. HFRS personnel have not needed to receive any additional training to participate in the co-responding trial due to their already high level of trauma training, any required safeguarding training and advanced CRB checks were funded by the EEAS. EEAS also supply any additional resources/equipment required (oxygen, resuscitation masks etc.) The only costs funded by HFRS are transport costs and time for whole-time stations participating in the trial, it needs to be noted that an RDS station is participating in the trial and evaluation will need to be made on the impact of this on the RDS salary budget. The benefits are difficult to measure in financial terms for both the Authority and residents of Hertfordshire, however on several occasions HFRS attendance has resulted in life saving intervention for the individual concerned.

Upon completion of the trial, if HFRS were required to continue with co-responding a further re-evaluation of incurred costs and potential recompense would need to be

The benefits of the introduction of Day Crewing **Plus** stations within Hertfordshire has been previously communicated. It identified significant financial saving made (£365k/station), whilst also acknowledging that there is no reduction in operational availability or service delivery. However, it also needs to be acknowledged that during periods of high operational activity and/or large scale protracted incidents the DCP system does have an impact on resilience due to the removal of shifts changes within a 24hr period. This impact will need to be considered when identifying opportunities to introduce additional DCP stations within Hertfordshire in future years.

7.3.7 The Chief Officer to attend a future OSC to outline the issues arising from fly-tipping. This will follow a report to Panel in February 2017

To be addressed at the Community Safety & Waste Management Panel meeting on 7th February 2017.

7.7.3 Greater partnership between Public Health and the CCGs is needed that recognises the contributions and pressures of both to stimulate closer working.

The County Council is committed to working collaboratively with the CCG's in the County. For the last 4 years officers in both HCS and Public Health have been working closely with the CCG's and have developed some excellent partnership working especially given the NHS has completely different governance procedures from Local Government. There has been collaborative working within and through the Health and Wellbeing Board. Hertfordshire Public Health has always worked with both CCG's and advises them on public health matters.

We consider that the term integration is misleading in relation to PH and the CCG's, as PH is firmly part of Local Government and not the NHS and it would be detrimental to our residents if Public Health was lost to the NHS again.

The advent of the STP enables us to reconsider our relationship with the CCGs and how we work together, officers will work on this. Scrutiny of pathway approaches suggested above, if conducted with the right focus, would enable members to look closely at this.

7.7.4 There will be opportunities to innovate and an increased need for Public Health to bid for external funding when the ring-fenced budget is removed.

The County Council will continue to have a significant number of responsibilities for public health after the removal of the ring fence and will need to maintain and retain a core funding for public health duties and responsibilities if it is not to be in default of its duties. It will be incumbent on the Council to decide how it wishes to prioritise council spending though.

Central Government is now tending to provide central bodies with funding for sport and culture, so local authorities are learning to create bids in partnership with the public and 3rd sector bodies in the County. This form of working has been in place for 4 years and over that time PH, with its clever use of District Offer monies, has help leverage in significant sums of money for the District and Borough councils.

The PH service in the County has been an innovator from the start (which other authorities have learnt from) but will continue to seek new ways to bring monies to the county.

7.7.6 Members were disappointed at the perceived lack of progress of the Hertfordshire Civil Service. The financial and quality benefits of existing shared services between districts and between county and district/s should be highlighted to encourage further back-office sharing of services.

Since 2013, the Council has been improving its communication channels with all tiers of government. There has been a particular emphasis on work with the Town and Parish Council, with the development of the 'Partnership Principals' which all councils were asked to comment on and were formulated by and with HAPTC.

The Executive Member for Public Health, Localism and Libraries is invited to meetings of the HAPTC Executive Board and meets regularly with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the HAPTC to discuss how to take forward joint working with the sector. The Chairman of the HAPTC is also a member of the Hertfordshire Assembly.

The County Council has in conjunction with HAPTC organised a number of conferences for town and parish councils. The Highways Together scheme was adopted and an appendix to the Partnership Principles outlining way in which town and parishes can work with the County Council has been developed.

All town and parish councils are also invited to the Hertfordshire Forward Annual Conference and the council's annual engagement event on the Integrated Plan.

The corporate policy team ensure that all Town and Parish Councils are included in consultations that they send out and public health communicate frequent with all council and indeed all councils have an opportunity to sign up to our mailing lists. Public Health regularly sends its Public Health bulletins to councils and the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment survey has also been sent to all councils this week.

Unfortunately many of the smaller parishes do not feel they have the capacity to work with the County more closely.

8.6 The effect of green waste charges introduced by some borough/district councils on the volume of residual waste collected will be addressed by the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group when it receives a progress report on the Herts Waste Partnership

To be addressed in part at the Community Safety & Waste Management Panel meeting on 7th February 2017 that will explore the impact of green garden waste charging on recycling performance. Any specific association with residual waste volumes will need to be monitored and considered further once known.

8.12 A number of Library Service issues will be addressed at the scheduled scrutiny in March 2017:

- the impact of slower introduction of volunteers
- alternate funding e.g. direct debit to allow personal donations
- maximise commercial revenue streams e.g. archive services, family heritage and retail opportunities both online and within libraries.

Our experience at Chorleywood and Redbourn has proved the concept of Community Libraries, demonstrating that, with careful management, our community partnership model, is sufficiently robust to provide a good level of service to library customers. These early adopters have provided valuable lessons in community engagement, effective communication, the delivery of

appropriate training, the resolution of problems and the provision of ongoing advice and support.

Although the Library Service has now developed the skills and knowledge to manage the development of Community Libraries, for each new community, it is an entirely new experience. Each newly formed community group needs time and support to establish itself and to build the skills and confidence of its volunteers. For this reason, it is likely to take longer than originally anticipated to roll-out all 16 designated Community Libraries, and this process is now likely to continue into 2018.

Despite the volunteer run community libraries taking longer than originally envisaged, it is felt that this is still the most effective way to deliver the current Library Service savings and sustain libraries in smaller communities.

The Library Service will be reviewed as a Scrutiny Topic on the 20th March; the progress of Community Libraries being run by volunteers is likely to be considered as part of this day.

It is useful to have the Scrutiny group support to further develop the Library and Heritage Service's donations strategy, which has commenced.

The 'Inspiring Libraries' Strategy set the ambition of increasing library income by around 25% (£250,000 per annum) by 2017/18 in order to support the development and sustainability of services. To achieve this, a number of new revenue streams have been explored, including commissioned services and income generation opportunities.

Progress in achieving against this stretching target has been detailed in the paper to Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel on 1st February and is likely to be discussed further as part of the Library Service Scrutiny Topic on the 20th March.

Overall, it has proved difficult to find new revenue streams, which generate sufficient income to make a significant contribution to the Library Service budget. This is partly due to an assumption that all public library services are free. There are some positive signs that this attitude is changing, but it is likely to take some time to achieve this culture shift. The main reason, however, is the decline of major traditional sources of library income. Income from overdue charges is reduced because it is so much easier for customers to renew their items online, and income from DVD charges is falling as this is becoming an increasingly obsolete format. As a result any income generated from new revenue sources is serving to offset the decline rather than raising additional money for the service.

In Heritage Services, exploring new income streams is an important strand of our Shared Heritage Strategy, and new income generating initiatives promoted in recent months include conservation and digitisation services, reproduction rights charges and room hire in Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies.

8.14 HSC scrutiny to ensure that there is consistency of services across the county and that social prescribing is offered by GPs regardless of locality

Pathways through the health system are there to improve efficiency and reduce variation in outcomes in health for patients. There are few good reasons why pathways should differ radically across the County and between CCGs. Our hope is that the STP process will harmonise pathways. In particular, value for money issues in pathways is often not well considered. If we find that there are still inconsistencies across the County after the STP process, it may be useful for a scrutiny of pathways, especially if it really looked at differences in outcomes and compared the efficiency of each.

8.15 HSC's scrutiny of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service on the work programme for autumn 2017 remains a priority.

We would agree with this and would ask the scrutiny to focus particularly on the experience of carers, parents and young people in accessing services, and improvements or not in waiting times.