

Minutes



To: All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee (ISSC); Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Elaine Manzi
Ext: 28062

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY IMPACT OF SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE (ISSC)

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

J Billing (*substituting for J Bennett-Lovell*); I M Reay (Chairman); R H Smith; J A West

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D A Ashley; T L F Douris; T C Heritage; F R G Hill; T W Hone

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview and Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee (ISSC) meeting held on 28 November 2017 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet Panel in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION THE ISSC	ACTION
1a INTRODUCTION FROM CHAIRMAN	
1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee.	
1b INDUCTION FROM HEAD OF SCRUTINY	
1.2 The Head of Scrutiny outlined to Members to the purpose of the sub-committee, and provided detail on what the expectations of Members would be during the course of the meeting.	
1.3 It was stressed to members that the objective of the sub-committee was not to re-scrutinise the topics presented. The sub-committee was charged with the important undertaking of deciding whether the recommendations from each of scrutiny being addressed at the meeting had been satisfactorily completed by the department.	

2. RECOMMENDATIONS: HERTFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS (HSAB) TOPIC GROUP (13 JUN 2016)

Report Author: Sue Darker - Operations Director (AD & MH)
(01992 588820)

- 2.1 Members heard that since the scrutiny in 2016, the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) had progressed and developed significantly, partly due to the appointment of an independent chair who had been able to progress a majority of the recommendations.
- 2.2 In regards to recommendation 2.1, it was noted that discussions had been held with officers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. Although it had been agreed that no formal funding arrangements would be established, Hertfordshire officers were confident that should a cross border issue arise, all partners would work together to share resources to achieve the best outcomes for service users.
- 2.3 Members suggested that it would be helpful to keep a formal log of any cross border incidents that should occur as a monitoring tool in the event of any further scrutiny. The officer and deputy executive member agreed this was a helpful suggestion.
- 2.4 In relation to recommendation 2.2 it was confirmed that a subsequent HSAB scrutiny specifically related to self-neglect had taken place on 12 October 2017.
- 2.5 Members were pleased to note that the HSAB scrutiny in October 2017 had included officers from Community Protection, as this was confirmation that joined up working was taking place between departments.
- 2.6 In response to recommendation 2.3 further explanation was provided to Members as to the purpose of the HSAB dashboard.
- 2.7 Members were satisfied with the written evidence provided to recommendation 2.4
- 2.8 **CONCLUSION:**
The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Topic Group 2016 as complete.

Sue Darker

3. RECOMMENDATIONS: THE CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA) TOPIC GROUP (17 JAN 17)

Report Author: Marion Ingram - Operations Director- Specialist Services (Tel: 01992 588620)

- 3.1 Members noted the statistics presented at the beginning of the report, and were advised that the current percentage of Children Looked After (CLA) who had experienced three or more placements was 11.7% which was 0.2% above Hertfordshire's target.
- 3.2 The sub-committee also heard that the most challenging children to find stable placements were generally aged 10 – 15 and had previously experienced considerable trauma before entering care. Assurance was received that although these children may experience a number of placements due to nature of their challenging behaviour which requires experienced and skilled carers, eventually they do find a suitable placement where they remain long term.
- 3.3 In response to recommendation 2.1 further assurance was received that Hertfordshire officers had reviewed recognised good practice in neighbouring authorities. They had not been able to identify additional good practice to improve placement stability within the county, as the departmental practice had engendered high standards of work. However it was noted that when counting the number of placements made of babies, if they were fostered at birth, Hertfordshire counted the hospital as the first placement, which may be different in other authorities and this could help explain why Hertfordshire's statistics were higher.
- 3.4 In relation to recommendation 2.2 it was explained that the percentage of 10-15 year olds moving placements had increased, partly due to increasingly challenging behaviour. In response to this extensive therapeutic work had been undertaken with foster carers to equip them with the skills to meet the children/young person's needs and thus reduce the risk of the need for a placement change.
- 3.5 In regard to recommendation 2.3 Members were content that sufficient work was being progressed with regards to improving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) goals.

- 3.6 Members were content with the evidence provided for recommendation 2.4 that work was ongoing to provide foster carers with a profile of a child/young person being placed with them. It was noted that information for the placed child/young person on the foster carer is already provided prior to placement. It was noted that this will be furthered scrutinised at a scrutiny of CAMHS that is scheduled for January 2018.

CONCLUSION:

- 3.7 The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Children Looked After Topic Group as complete.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: LIBRARIES REVIEW TOPIC GROUP (20 MAR 2017)

Report Author: Andrew Bignell- Head of Libraries & Heritage Services (Tel: 01707 281559)

- 4.1 Members heard that the purpose of the Topic Group had been to examine the priorities and ambitions for the Library Service for the next few years.

- 4.2 In relation to recommendation 2.1 Members learnt that Croxley Green library had been chosen as the pilot site for the Open+ Service as it was able to be implemented without any structural changes.

- 4.3 In regard to recommendation 2.2, Members received assurance that staffing levels, although under review, had not changed since the recommendation had been made. It was noted that more detail on this area had been provided in the 'Inspiring Libraries- the next phase' paper presented at Education, Libraries and Localism Panel on 7 November 2017.

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/773/Committee/105/Default.aspx>

- 4.4 In response to recommendation 2.3, Members were pleased to note the increase in income being generated from hiring of spaces within libraries, but acknowledged that improvements in technology meant that income generated through overdue fines had significantly reduced.

- 4.5 Members heard that in relation to recommendation 2.4 the relationship with volunteers was continuing to improve and that the work of volunteers was valued by the service. It was noted that volunteer input and participation would be integral in the planning

for the future development of libraries.

CONCLUSION:

- 4.6 The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Libraries Review Topic Group as complete.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: CRIME & DISORDER TOPIC GROUP (5 & 13 DEC 2016)

Report Author: John Boulter - Community Protection Manager (Tel: 01707 292647)

- 5.1 Members were advised that in addition to the evidence outlined in the report in relation to recommendation 2.1 two people had been successfully convicted in November 2017 of selling extortionately priced vitamins and money laundering. Details of one of the convictions can be found here:

<http://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/court-watch/fredy-fernandes-salvador-socorro-rodrigues-peterborough-jailed-vitamin-fraud-1-5277295>

- 5.2 In relation to recommendation 2.2 Members received reassurance that officers were committed to the development of a Scamming Strategy and work in this area was ongoing with partners. Members noted that the report indicated that this would have been completed by the end of November, it was now anticipated that this would be completed by the end of 2017.

- 5.3 Members received further assurance that work in this area would include working with partners such as the Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (HFRS), irrespective of whether the governance of the HFRS was transferred to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 5.4 Members agreed that in relation to recommendation 2.3, this should have its classification changed to completed. A significant amount of work had been undertaken since the topic group had been held to develop Action Fraud as the single point of contact for fraud reporting and Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) for advice. Members were assured that work was ongoing to raise awareness of this development.

- 5.5 Members confirmed that they were satisfied with the written evidence provided in response to recommendation 2.4.

5.6 CONCLUSION:

The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Crime and Disorder 2016 Topic Group as complete.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS: HERTS WASTE PARTNERSHIP TOPIC GROUP (4 & 9 NOV 2016)

Report Author: Simon Aries - Assistant Director, Transport, Waste & Environment Management (Tel: 01992 555255)

- 6.1 Members were advised that due to challenges associated with district council response to the original recommendation 2.1 for a whole system cost review, the focus had changed to a technical review, which had been completed with the report due to be published in Quarter 4.
- 6.2 Further to a Member challenge regarding the appropriateness of the change in focus, assurance was received that the underpinning point of the recommendation, which was the continued operation of the Alternative Financial Model (AFM), had not changed, but it had been necessary to approach the review from a different angle in order to satisfy the requirements of the districts. It was agreed that officers would circulate a report to sub-committee Members on the future of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Service (HWP), as presented at the HWP Member Group held in July 2017, which would provide further information and explanation for this change in focus.
- 6.3 Further to discussion it was agreed that recommendation 2.1 should have its classification changed to completed as significant assurance had been received that although there had been a change of focus, officers had commenced the work required in the recommendation and were committed to address its ongoing challenges through its workstreams. It was further agreed that any significant changes or developments would be brought to the attention of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further action if required.
- 6.4 Members learnt that in response to recommendation 2.2, although a joint waste authority proposal had not yet been agreed the reduction in the amount of residual waste remained a priority and the amount of waste produced was reducing across the county.
- 6.5 Members were assured that the executive members and officers would continue to pursue joint working and unified approaches to waste disposal, and based on these assurances, Members agreed to change the classification of the recommendation 2.2 to completed.

Duncan Jones

Simon
Aries/Natalie
Rotherham

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- 6.6 The sub-committee also agreed that the information provided by officers in the meeting and assurance from the executive member of ongoing commitment to workstreams was sufficient to change the classification of 2.3 to completed.
- 6.7 Based on the written evidence provided and the verbal commitment by officers and the Executive Member for Community Safety and Waste Management to being proactive in driving forward improvements to waste management and disposal, Members also agreed to change the classification of recommendation 2.4 to completed.

CONCLUSION:

- 6.8 The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Herts Waste Management Topic Group as complete.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS: FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT TOPIC GROUP (27 OCT 2016)

Report Author: Simon Aries - Assistant Director, Transport, Waste & Environment Management (Tel: 01992 555255)

- 7.1 The sub-committee received confirmation that recommendations 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 from the topic group had been incorporated into the Flood Risk Management Strategy, scheduled to be presented at the Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel in February 2018. It was noted that other contributions to the strategy had come from a wide variety of sources.
- 7.2 Members were pleased to note the developments of the links between Flood Risk Management, Highways and Property Services as outlined in recommendation 2.1.3.
- 7.3 Members were satisfied with the evidence provided in relation to partnership working outlined in recommendation 2.1.4. It was noted as further evidence that four joint commissioning submissions had been submitted to Anglian Water.
- 7.4 It was confirmed that the small works fund outlined in recommendation 2.1.5 would be incorporated as part of the existing budget and would not require additional funding.
- 7.5 The sub-committee were informed that the Flood Risk Management Strategy, as detailed at 7.1 of these minutes would be launched in late Spring 2018, subject to public consultation. The full strategy would also be accompanied by a shorter summary, and would receive full local media coverage at the point of publication.

7.6 Members were advised that in relation to recommendation 2.2, the issue of Flood Risk Management had yet to be discussed at a meeting of the Herts Infrastructure and Investment Planning Partnership (HIPP) due to competing priorities on the agenda. Members noted the assurance from the executive member and that it was anticipated that the matter would be brought to a HIPP meeting in Spring 2018.

7.7 The sub-committee agreed that as recommendation 2.2 had not been completed that it should be brought back to the next meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 25 April 2018 for a further update.

Natalie
Rotherham/
Simon Aries/
Andy
Hardstaff/
Derrick Ashley

7.8 In relation to recommendation 2.3, Members learnt that the meetings with the external agencies detailed within the recommendation were occurring, and working well.

7.9 Members heard that recommendation 2.4 had become less of a priority within the department as concerns with regards to the recruitment and retention of staff that had been prevalent at the time of the Topic Group had lessened.

7.10 Further to discussion, Members agreed that as the risks presented from the recruitment and retention of staff had significantly reduced, and a review of training programmes was imminent, the classification of recommendation 2.4 should be changed to completed.

7.11 In relation to recommendation 2.5, it was noted that although initial contacts had been made with the agencies outlined in the response, because areas in Essex and Oxfordshire had been classified as priorities by the respective water companies, further developments would not be undertaken until late in 2018.

7.12 Members agreed that as on balance progress had been made and was continuing they would agree with the report author that the recommendation 2.5 was complete.

7.13 The sub-committee were satisfied with the evidence received in relation to recommendation 2.6.

CONCLUSION:

7.14 The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Flood Risk Management Topic Group as complete with the exception of recommendation 2.2, which was agreed would be brought back to the next meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny

Natalie
Rotherham/
Simon Aries/
Andy
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Derrick Ashley

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sub-committee in April 2018.

Derrick Ashley

8. RECOMMENDATIONS: DISABILITY SUPPORT FOR BUS USERS TOPIC GROUP (17 MAR 2017)

Simon Aries, Assistant Director -Transport, Waste & Environment Management (Tel: 01992 555255)

- 8.1 Members received confirmation in relation to recommendation 2.1, that officers had been attending Transport Working Groups, where the issue of and awareness raising of orange wallets for service users and audio displays at bus stops.
- 8.2 It was clarified that the orange wallet was a credit card sized plastic sleeve wallet that acted as a visual aid to bus drivers that the passenger had a disability. This had been designed in coalition with colleagues from Adult Care Services. Members were pleased to note the cross department work that had been undertaken in production of this, and were also pleased to note that the wallet was provided to all service users with a disability as it was known that some disabilities are not always visual.
- 8.3 In relation to recommendation 2.2 it was noted that council officers regularly attend Intalink meetings, and the outcomes of the Topic Group had been presented at the Intalink AGM meeting in July 2017. It was further noted that any concern raised by disabled bus users can be and was presented at Intalink meetings.
- 8.4 The sub-committee learnt in relation to recommendation 2.3, the Bus Services Bill had yet to become formal legislation at central government, although it was expected that a majority of the bill would be presented at Parliament by the end of the year, with the remainder being legislated by the end of 2018.
- 8.5 Members received assurance that awareness raising had been undertaken with disabled residents of the products available to them and how to access them. It was confirmed that the Intalink website has an area that specifically addresses disability support.

CONCLUSION:

- 8.6 The sub-committee signed off all recommendations for the Disability Support for Bus Users Topic Group as complete.

9. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

- 9.1 Members agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee would be 25 April 2018.

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10. FORWARD PLAN

- 10.1 The sub-committee noted the forward plan for the meeting, outlining forthcoming topic groups whose recommendations were scheduled to be discussed at forthcoming meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

CHAIRMAN_____

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