

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **6 MARCH 2013** at Loxley House

from 2.04 pm to 4.00 pm

- ✓ Councillor Parbutt (Chair)
Councillor Bryan
- ✓ Councillor Culley
Councillor Choudhry
- ✓ Councillor Dewinton (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Hartshorne
Councillor Healy
- ✓ Councillor Jenkins
- ✓ Councillor Khan
Councillor Klein
Councillor Molife
- ✓ Councillor Parton
Councillor Watson
Councillor S Williams

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

In Attendance

- Ms B Denby - 3rd Sector Advocate
- Ms N Dawson - Priority Families Programme Manager
- Mr T O'Neill - Director of Family Community Teams
- Ms V McCrossen - Head of Family Community Teams Central
- Mr R Kalsi - Constitutional Services Officer
- Ms A Kaufhold - Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Choudhry, Healy, Klein, Molife and Watson.

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

54 MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of the following text to minute 51, Programme for Scrutiny, bullet point 5:

cycling – traffic awareness - the increase in cycling casualties,

the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2013, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

55 PROVISION OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr O'Neill gave a presentation, outlining the provision of family support services across the City, with a particular focus on the Priority Families Programme and its effectiveness in improving outcomes for the families.

The Nottingham Children's Partnership had agreed the strategy for Family Support in Nottingham City for 2010-2014. The purpose of the strategy was to set out the priorities across all partners responsible for providing support to families, the City Council's responsibilities and how support would be delivered. The Strategy also established the following Partnership's agreed family support priorities:

- intervening early and preventing problems;
- integrated services;
- family-focused: Personalised and seamless;
- accessible and inclusive;
- empowering families to take responsibility.

Information provided to the Committee included:

- the family support strategy launched in 2011, was represented by a 'wind-screen' approach of four tiers: the Universal Support, Additional Support, Extensive Support and Protection;
- the overall strategy focused on early intervention through a partnership approach, however recent work undertaken confirmed that Nottingham was ahead of other local authorities in progressing its strategy;
- the adoption of the support strategy paved the way for earlier identification and use of effective support around the whole family. In light of budget pressures, there were fewer finances available for local authorities; however there was a focus on more complex needs. A programmed approach would focus on behavioural and attitude change and seek to solve problems. A comprehensive approach would see 10 or 11 services all working together. It was reported that the teams were well on the way to embedding the strategy;
- in terms of progress, there were a 1,000 fewer referrals to social care which was an encouraging sign of the positive impact of the strategy. A saving of £600,000 in the care budget had also been identified. Further progress was identified in a recent inspection into the Safeguarding team which showed

falling youth crime and a reduction in the number of young people ‘hanging around.’ Nottingham City was improving well in comparison to other local authorities;

- 1,800 Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) had been carried out. Although there was scope for some improvements to ensure a successful transition to assessing the needs of the whole family. It was a major cultural change for services to be entirely family-focussed;
- in relation to challenges to the strategy, it was reported that although it was embedding well, the strategy still faced budgetary pressures;
- the relationship with schools was also in a process of transition and they also held more influence in the strategic partnership.

During discussion, the following comments were made and additional information provided:

- in order to drive through cultural change, officers and staff members would need to be trained to the same standards to be able to identify any safety and resilience issues in families. This cultural change required all strands of community resources and social capital to work collectively, as they all shared responsibility to ensure the safety of families;
- work was being carried out with social care partners on a year on year basis, through tracking the use of resources and capital, this had identified that fewer referrals were being made;
- in light of fewer referrals being made, there had been an increase in the subscription to preventative services. This demonstrated that more cases were being de-escalated to other council services.

Ms Denby, on behalf of third sector advocates, raised the following queries:

- why there was no parental/carer participation on the Children’s Partnership Board framework;
- following an increase in the number of CAFs, there were concerns over the allocation of this work, given that a CAF/Special Peoples’ team no longer existed;
- two individual cases were raised by Ms Denby regarding complaints being made over the support/service provided by the Council which were forwarded to Mr O’Neill’s team and dealt with outside of the Committee.

In response to comments raised by Ms Denby, Mr O’Neill resolved to look into the structure of Children’s Partnership Board and see if the membership could include parent/carer representatives, and confirmed that a quality assurance framework was in place to audit parental feedback and the facts concerning the individual cases would be investigated by the Family Support Team;

- Job Centre Plus would be assisting by supporting citizens back into work through helping to improve the 'softer skills' needed such as, punctuality and the ability to take instructions from senior members of staff;
- there was an expectation that the involvement of schools at an early age would assist in the development of 'soft skills' as pupils were required to get up early in the morning to attend school on time. It was confirmed that the strategy was connected to work being carried out with 14 -19 year olds and was being phased in at schools;
- in relation to simplifying the CAF, there was a feeling that officers wanted to maintain the quality assessment, however, there was scope for a reduction in the amount of paper required throughout the assessment process;
- it was reported that health visitors and midwives were completing around 5% of CAFs, however, there was a feeling that this should be increasingly encouraged in terms of an earlier intervention approach;
- a Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) was currently being developed where all systems would be located in one place. This would help with the co-ordinated approach to information sharing and form an effective response to supporting families;
- there was an opportunity for joint service centres around the City to have a huge impact in their areas in terms of providing a co-ordinated support network for families. It was noted that the volume of community engagement at the Children's Centre at the Mary Potter Centre was huge;
- a number of families had been identified and were working with colleagues in Vanguard Plus to prevent an increase in the number of young people at risk falling into a gang culture.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the appreciation of the Committee for the presentation and information provided be noted;**
- (2) that the Director of Family Community Teams be requested to submit an update report to this Committee in March 2014, on the progress of Nottingham's Family Support Strategy including benchmarking data on similar work being undertaken by other local authorities.**

56 PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY

The Committee considered the future programme for scrutiny as set out in the report of the Head of Democratic Services. The following items were discussed:

- Following an email from the Notts Carers' Alliance regarding the closure of the Open Door Service, it was confirmed that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor

Parton would meet with the Director for Adult Provision and Health Integration for a briefing on the proposal.

- The proposal to hold a single meeting scrutiny review to respond to Nottingham City Interagency Homelessness Strategy 2013-18.
- A meeting had been arranged for Monday 25 March at 2.900 pm, to hear the responses to recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Offenders.
- A meeting was planned for 8 March 2013 of the Personal Budgets Scrutiny Review Panel to gather evidence relating to Commissioning and Quality Frameworks to support personal budget holders.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be moved from 3 April to 10 April 2013 and the purpose of the meeting to consider the Police and Crime Commissioners Five Year Plan, to be presented by Ms Cutland, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner;**
- (2) that a scrutiny review panel be established to respond to the consultation on Nottingham City Inter-agency Homelessness Strategy 2013018, to meet on Wednesday 17 April 2013 at 2.00 pm for a single-meeting review. The membership of this panel to comprise:**
 - **Councillor Jenkins (Chair)**
 - **Councillor Dewinton**
 - **Councillor Parton**
 - **Councillor Watson**
- (3) that a single meeting to review tree management and maintenance be commissioned to take place in June 2013 with Councillor Parbutt as Chair with membership to be confirmed at the next meeting in April;**
- (4) that the work programme be reviewed by the Chair and Vice-Chair with both Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinators with a view to prioritise and remove items for consideration at the April meeting.**