

## **COUNCIL**

**23 JANUARY 2014**

### **REPORT ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services

#### **Summary**

This report provides a summary of the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees since the last report to Council on 17 October 2013.

#### **1. Policy and Budget Framework**

1.1 The Council's constitution provides for the activities of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees to be reported to Council meetings. The following is a high level summary of business conducted. For further detail please refer to the minutes of each Committee which are published on the Council's website.

#### **2. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**5 December 2013**

##### **2.1.1. Housing Strategy Annual Review**

The Committee noted progress against the aims of the Housing Strategy and requested briefing notes on:

- The number of extra care units likely to be required in Medway over the next ten years in response to the rapidly ageing population and how this might be achieved
- The breakdown of the mix of affordable housing between rented and shared ownership units
- The number of Houses in Multiple Occupation visited under the Council's inspection framework and in response to complaints, setting out performance in relation to inspection targets

##### **2.1.2. Special Educational Needs Transport Budget**

Members raised a number of key issues and questions with the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture about the projected overspend of £1.1 million on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport budget for 2013/2014.

The Committee noted the actions being taken to reduce the pressure on the SEN transport budget in the light of the statutory duties, demographic pressures and providers' increased running costs.

Further information was requested on the outcome of the survey of spend on SEN Transport by other Unitary Councils and details of any cost-saving initiatives that those authorities have put in place.

#### 2.1.3. Update on Medway Norse

The Head of Category Management presented an update of the work undertaken by the joint venture company Medway Norse since 1 June 2013. The Committee agreed that an executive summary of the Medway Norse business plan should be included in future monitoring reports to the Committee.

#### 2.1.4. Update on Category Management

The Head of Category Management introduced a report providing an update on the creation of the category management team, its achievements so far and plans for the future.

Members asked a number of questions in particular relating to:

- Timescales for a review of the Procurement Strategy and arrangements for meeting with providers and suppliers
- Ongoing learning and development needs of category management staff
- Engagement with residents about the change and re-design of services
- The funding to be allocated to Medway under the Better Care Fund
- The Category Management staffing structure and plans to recruit to vacant posts

A report back was requested to provide information and assurance on the extent to which category management is to be involved in taking forward plans and commissioning of services under the Better Care Fund. The Committee placed on record its appreciation for the work undertaken by the Category Management Service Managers.

#### 2.1.5. Council Plan 2013/2014 Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring

Members requested a briefing note on the use of temporary accommodation to include:

- The capacity for Medway to cope with increasing demand for temporary accommodation/bed and breakfast accommodation and an overview of the average length of time spent in temporary accommodation over the last year and
- The numbers of people who have been in temporary accommodation for more than a year

#### 2.1.6. Capital Budget Monitoring 2013/2014

The Committee noted the spending forecasts summarised at Table 1 of the report. The new approvals and virements, outlined at paragraphs 4.2.3 and 4.3.1 of the report and authorised under Chief Officer delegations and the recommendation to Council for the addition to the capital programme outlined at paragraph 4.2.2 of the report were also noted.

#### 2.1.7. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2013/2014

Members noted the forecast outturn position for 2013/2014 and the proposed management action to reduce the potential deficit. The Committee asked to be supplied with a copy of the Council's response to the enquiry from the Government about the decision to transfer £2m from HRA reserves to the General Fund.

#### 2.1.8. Capital and Revenue Budget 2014/2015

The draft capital and revenue budget for 2014/2015 was noted and forwarded to individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Chief Finance Officer was asked to write to Medway's three MPs asking them to question the low level of Medway's baseline funding from Central Government compared to comparator authorities and seeking an improved position for Medway.

#### 2.1.9. Work programme

The Committee agreed a number of changes to the work programme as follows:

- The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services will now attend on 19 March 2014
- Review of the implementation of the recommendations from the Supported Accommodation Task Group to be taken on 4 February 2014
- Homelessness Strategy to be taken on 4 February 2014
- Update on discussions with Gambling Commission to now be taken at a future meeting
- Risk Register to be added to the agenda for 19 March 2014

### **3. Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**10 December 2013**

#### 3.1.1. The Health of School Aged Children: The Annual Public Health Report of the Director of Public Health 2012/2013

Members welcomed a report on the health of school-aged children, which had been the subject of a Member briefing earlier in the evening.

### 3.1.2. Provisional Test and Examination Results for 2013

The Committee questioned the Assistant Director, Inclusion and School Improvement and Head of School Challenge and Improvement and formally placed on record appreciation of the work being undertaken to ensure pupils in Medway were achieving their best in tests and examinations.

An amendment to the report was requested to reflect that a Member had put themselves forward to be a school governor in this academic year.

A request was made for future reports to include further information on the work of the local authority in supporting schools and pupils in attaining their best test and examination results.

### 3.1.3. Children Missing Education

The Attendance and Advisory Service for Schools and Academies Team Manager introduced a report setting out the current position on children missing education in Medway. As a result of the discussion Members requested, if possible, any further information regarding the numbers of home educated children who go onto higher education.

### 3.1.4. Youth Justice Plan

The Youth Offending Team Manager presented the Youth Justice Plan and responded to Members' questions. The Plan was forwarded to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 17 December and an update to the Corporate Parenting Group was requested for January 2014 on issues relating to inappropriate cautions being given to Looked After Children referenced during the meeting.

### 3.1.5. Outcomes of consultation for the proposed prescribed alterations at Brompton Westbrook Primary School

The Strategic Planning Analyst presented a report on proposed prescribed alterations at Brompton Westbrook Primary School and explained the background to the changes. The Committee forwarded the report to Cabinet with a minor amendment to the transcript of the public meeting.

### 3.1.6. Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2014/2015

Following consideration of the draft capital and revenue budget for 2013/2015 Members requested examples that had contributed to the improvements in the budget forecasts that had helped bring the funding gap down. The budget was then forwarded to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### 3.1.7. Council Plan 2013/2014 Performance Monitoring

The Director of Children and Adults responded to Members' questions in particular relating to:

- Medway's Action for Families programme
- The average time between a child entering care and moving in with an adoptive family
- The target relating to children leaving care and changes in legislation relating to support for care leavers up to the age of 25

### 3.1.8. Work programme

The Committee agreed that the Early Help Strategy should be added to the work programme and that nominations to the two vacancies for parent governor representatives should be invited in the New Year, with the Medway Governor Association being advised of the process in order that the opportunity can be widely promoted.

## **4. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**11 November 2013**

### 4.1.1. Care Quality Commission inspection report on Medway Maritime Hospital Maternity Services

The Chief Executive of Medway NHS Foundation Trust gave an introduction to the unannounced inspection report from the Care Quality Commission in relation to maternity services at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Members scrutinised in depth the comments made and asked questions and forwarded their concerns in particular relating to:

- Auditing processes in maternity services
- Staff training and appraisals
- Bereavement training
- Consistency and good practice across the service
- Ongoing availability of the Birth Place
- The importance of dealing with mental health issues promptly

The Chief Executive noted the concerns of the Committee in relation to the findings in the report and agreed to update the Committee at its meeting on 28 January 2014.

### 4.1.2. Work programme

Following a number of Chairman's announcements it was noted that the report of the Mental Health Task Group and the outcome of the Committee's reporting to the Secretary of State of the proposed reconfiguration of acute mental health inpatient beds would be added to the work programme for 18 December 2013.

It was also noted that a report on St Mary's Medical Centre in Strood would be added to the business for 18 December 2013 and NHS England (Kent and Medway) and lead petitioners would be invited to attend.

### **18 December 2013**

#### **4.2.1 Petition – St Mary's Medical Centre, Strood**

The lead petitioner from St Mary's Medical Centre in Strood addressed the Committee requesting Members' support in resolving the contractual issues, which had arisen at the practice to ensure continuity of care. While the Committee did not feel they could influence what happened regarding the contractual issues it was agreed that the Chairman of the Committee would request the Health and Wellbeing Board to write to NHS England to urge the General Medical Council to conclude their hearing for Dr Oshinusi before the appeal against the Care Quality Commission decision to refuse provider registration takes place in March 2014.

#### **4.2.2 Member item – patient transport**

Councillor Purdy explained the reasons for bringing this item and the commissioner and provider for the service addressed the Committee explaining that mistakes had been made in the procuring of the service initially which meant that the reality for the provider was very different from the service commissioned.

The Committee expressed great concern at the commissioning failings and the Chief Officer, West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group noted the risks of going to procurement too early before details of contract activity were known.

A written briefing was requested by February 2014 followed by an update at the April 2014 meeting.

#### **4.2.3 Capital and Revenue Budget 2014/2015**

The draft capital and revenue budget for 2014/2015 was forwarded to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4.2.4 Response from Secretary of State to report from Medway on acute mental health beds redesign in Kent and Medway**

The Committee noted the response from the Secretary of State for Health in relation to the reconfiguration of acute mental health beds and agreed to monitor the implementation of the reconfiguration at appropriate milestones, keeping under scrutiny the areas highlighted in the Secretary of State's letter. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Secretary of State taking into account any points raised later in the meeting to reflect the Committee's views (see item 4.2.6 below).

#### 4.2.5 Review of Mental Health Services in Medway – in-depth task group report

The Committee considered an in depth review of mental health services in Medway and forwarded the following recommendations to Cabinet for approval:

1. Cabinet agree that an Appreciative Enquiry Conference be held in Spring 2014, hosted by Medway Council, to include all relevant agencies to establish a shared vision for the future of Mental Health Services in Medway. This event should be jointly supported and funded by the Council, Medway CCG and the two NHS providers of mental health services in Medway;
2. Cabinet to task the Council's Mental Health Commissioner to explore further the opportunity for social care to be included in the shared care arrangements being developed by Medway CCG and KMPT;
2. Cabinet consider as part of the 2014/2015 revenue budget preparations support for longer-term follow up mental health support services, including the role for Public Health and in partnership with Medway CCG;
3. Cabinet agree that frontline staff should receive mental health awareness training (for example: receptionists, Library and Community Hub staff, housing staff and Sure Start Children Centres);

This training could be provided by service users, carers, social workers, the Public Health Mental Health First Aid Trainer and KMPT staff; to ensure it is grounded in the lived experience locally and is directly relevant. This project could be taken forward as a stakeholder initiative, with the added value of relationship building;

Training on mental health awareness training should also be offered to all Medway schools to an identified member of staff in the school, preferably a teacher.

4. This mental health awareness training could also be offered to other key service providers such as Medway's Job Centre Plus and Medway CAB;
5. The Task Group believe that these are important messages for commissioners and providers of CAMHS and universal services to children and young people such as schools, in the feedback from service users and family carers. A copy of the report will be made available to Medway CCG, Sussex Partnership NHS Trust and Medway Schools Forum, in order that they can consider these issues further and take action, as appropriate, to help young people protect their mental health and to support their peers;

6. Cabinet agree to Medway Council mental health services adopting an approach of directly involving service users and carers in co-design and co-production of mental health services and through the work of the Partnership Commissioning Team to encourage this approach with partner commissioners and providers;
7. Cabinet agree to the identification of a Link worker in Housing and for Adult Social Care managers (in partnership with KMPT) to develop a support duty system to assist the Link worker to deal effectively with housing services clients with mental health needs;
8. Cabinet agree that if services are to continue to be provided from Riverside One that improvements to the reception and waiting areas are made; if services are to be relocated that the new location is welcoming to customers;

A copy of this report will be made available to KMPT, who can consider the feedback of service users, carers and Members of the Task Group in relation to Kingsley House reception and waiting area, taking action as appropriate.

10. Cabinet agree that the Assistant Director for Partnership Commissioning develop opportunities that strengthen dialogue with local young people's organisations, with a view to harnessing the capacity of young people to raise awareness of mental health issues as a means of prevention, earlier intervention and peer support. In addition to work with Public Health to explore their role in helping to raise awareness of mental health issues within schools, to include consideration of the option of involving school nurses.
11. Cabinet agree that the Assistant Director for Partnership Commissioning and the Deputy Director of Children and Adults evaluate the extent to which there can be more flexibility in services to maximise support for young people and their families during transition; whilst respecting the legislative, regulatory and statutory guidance limitations and requirements;
12. Cabinet task the Assistant Director for Partnership Commissioning to raise, via the CCG, the concerns regarding Section 136 arrangements for children and young people in Medway, and the Council's view that a more suitable arrangement to meet local need must be provided;
13. Cabinet task the Deputy Director for Children and Adults and the Assistant Director for Partnership Commissioning to further improve carer assessment arrangements and cover services, in response to feedback from carers to the Task Group.



#### 4.2.6 Implementation Plan – acute mental health inpatient beds reconfiguration

The Chief Officer of West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) introduced the implementation plan for the acute mental health inpatient beds and he and the Chief Executive, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and the Chief Clinical Officer, NHS Medway CCG responded to a list of issues circulated ahead of the meeting.

Two members of the public who had direct personal experience of services provided in Kent and Medway addressed the Committee.

Members expressed their extreme disappointment at the redistribution of acute inpatient mental health beds away from Medway, which they felt could only impact badly on Medway's service users and their carers. The view was expressed that Medway had been served poorly in the overall plans.

The Committee agreed to keep the position under permanent review with a report to each meeting of the Committee until further notice. In the interim it was agreed that information requested at the meeting would be provided to the Committee.

#### 4.2.7 Quarter 2 Performance Report

Members noted the key measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council Plan 2013/2015.

#### 4.2.8 The health of school aged children: The Annual Public Health Report of the Director of Public Health 2012/2013

The Committee noted the Annual Public Health report in relation to its impact on health and adult social care overall. The Director of Public Health was complimented on the helpful presentation made on 10 December 2013 to Members.

#### 4.2.9 Work programme

It was agreed that scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Board would take place on 8 April 2014, the support for carers item would be programmed for the June 2014 meeting and the progress of the Integrated Transformation Fund (now Better Care Fund) was noted.

### **5. Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**12 December 2013**

#### 5.1.1. Attendance of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services addressed the Committee and responded to questions in relation to the following topics:

- Plans for Medway Park in 2014
- Deangate Ridge –update on works
- Sports Development Teams working with ethnic minority groups
- The use of Housing Revenue Account funding for the provision of a new Library and Community Hub in Strood and Twydall and changes at Riverside One
- The provision of allotments and the reallocation of unmaintained allotments
- Grounds maintenance and grass cutting
- Armed Forces Day
- Provision of Residents' Parking Permits at Community Hubs
- Stirling Centre
- Commemoration of the Centenary of the First World War in 2014
- Target satisfaction figures
- Possible outsourcing of library services

#### 5.1.2. Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority – Safety Plan 2014

The Assistant Director, Service Delivery and Assistant Director for Policy and Performance from Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority (KMFRA) addressed the Committee about the Safety Plan 2014.

The Committee noted the report and noted that KMFRA had agreed to provide a detailed analysis of the combined record of incidents which will be circulated to Members via a briefing note.

#### 5.1.3. 2013/2014 Q2 Performance Monitoring

The Committee discussed the following areas:

- Pavement maintenance/repairs in the Conservation Area of High Street between the town centres of Rochester and Chatham
- 'No cold calling home' linking in with Neighbourhood Watch
- The number of fixed penalty notices paid
- Flytipping
- Chatham Waterfront Bus Station
- Smart Ticketing

A briefing note is to be provided on the maintenance schedule for pavements in River Ward, a report or briefing note would be provided on the smart ticketing system for use on public transport and in car parks in Medway and it was noted that paragraph 5.5 of the report had been amended to take account that the proposal to provide the sale of hot drinks and cold food to bus passengers had now been withdrawn.

#### 5.1.4. Medway Cycle Action Plan (2014-2017) Consultation

The following issues were discussed:

- Funding of projects
- Cleanliness of cycle paths
- Various specific routes

The Committee noted the Plan and noted that officers would undertake the following:

- Consider increasing the cleaning of specific cycle paths to remove broken glass
- Provide a briefing note on the funding elements of the various capital projects contained in the action plan
- Note concerns raised in respect of the safety of cycle paths in Dock Road, Chatham, Maidstone Road, Rochester and Maidstone Road Chatham and Wood Street, Gillingham and further information on these paths be included as part of the briefing note referred to above.

#### 5.1.5. Chatham World Heritage Planning Policy Document

The Committee supported the forthcoming adoption of the Chatham World Heritage Planning Policy Document.

#### 5.1.6. Update on Domestic Abuse

As a result of the update report Members requested a briefing note to be supplied to all Members on the Schools Notification Pilot, that a report on the Pilot should be submitted to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and future reports include information on the implications of domestic abuse in military families.

#### 5.1.7. Member's item: Use of 'Riverside' a bus only street, Strood

The Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture was advised that the Committee supported the opening up of 'Riverside', a bus only street between Canal Road and Commissioners Road, Strood for use by taxis and was asked to discuss this with the Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services.

#### 5.1.8. Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2014/2015

The Committee thanked Officers for the draft capital and revenue budget report for 2014/2015 and noted the report insofar as it affected the Committee.

#### 5.1.9. Petitions

The Committee noted the petition responses and appropriate officer action as set out in the report. The report on Parking Permit Zones carried out by the Member's Informal Working Group was noted. Officers were requested to give further consideration to the inclusion of the paragraph advising petitioners of the ten day deadline for submission of a request for their petition to be referred to Committee in the letter providing a written formal response in addition to the initial acknowledgement letter.

#### 5.1.10. Work programme

The work programme was noted.

#### **Background papers**

None

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