Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 28th June 2022

Present:	Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair) Councillor Yusra Hussain Councillor Jackie Ramsay Councillor John Taylor
Apologies:	Councillor Andrew Marchington

3 Membership of Committee

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Marchington.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 19th April and 25th May 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chair provided updates as follows:

(i) Further to the consideration of the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-27 at the March meeting, an update in respect of the Domestic Abuse Community Engagement Team had been presented to the Place Partnership Board on 23rd March and the Place Partnership leads would continue to be updated on a regular basis. Links had been made with Safer Kirklees to provide regular updates to all Councillors through quarterly briefings.
The Domestic Abuse Strategy would be submitted to Cabinet for approval and work was being undertaken alongside partners and the West Yorkshire Mayor's office to consider options for the financial arrangements that provide for victim support services. (Minute 69)

(ii) A survey of groups was being undertaken in response to the feedback received, at the November meeting of the Committee, in respect of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Investment Strategy and Councillors had been sent a briefing paper in early April.
The survey had opened on 6th April and, as at the end of May, had received feedback from over 190 groups. The response was being analysed to understand if there were any gaps that required further work (Minute 38).

5 Interests

No interests were declared.

6 Admission of the Public

All items were heard in public session.

7 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

8 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

9 Inclusive Communities Framework

A report was submitted in respect of the Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF) which had been developed to provide a partner-produced strategic approach to building cohesive communities in Kirklees.

Councillor Carol Pattison, Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities was in attendance and introduced the Inclusive Communities Framework. She explained that the framework would sit alongside the Council's Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Environment and Economic Strategies and set out how the Council and its partners would work with communities to try and ensure a safe and inclusive community. Its development had been shaped by the significant learning from the approach taken alongside communities during the pandemic. The Framework had recently been endorsed by the Communities Partnership Board and was now expected to progress through the Council and partners' governance procedures.

Jo Richmond - Head of Communities, Stephen Bonnell – Head of Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Planning and Caroline Henderson – Partnership Officer attended the meeting to introduce the report and gave a presentation highlighting the following points:

- It had become clear that communities wanted an ongoing relationship with organisations.
- The framework was professional facing and had been co-produced with partners. It could be scaled up or down to reflect the needs of different organisations or programmes of work.
- The framework would wrap around the other top-tier strategies and aimed to be agile and adaptable for use by partners.
- Three guiding principles underpinned the approach: belief, belonging and trust, and care; and five agreed inclusive approaches would be adopted and form the core of the framework: trusting, equalising, celebrating, communicating and connecting.
- How impact would be measured and use of the self-evaluation tool.
- The role of leadership and shared responsibility in implementation.
- The lead officers for each top-tier strategies met regularly to discuss the connections and dialogue on how the ICF could support development of those three strategies would be ongoing.

Questions and comments were invited from the Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- In respect of how the ICF and the three core strategies would work together in practice, it was explained that use of the self-evaluation tool was the key. Within the Council it would be used to assess the development of the projects to produce the three core strategies, to ensure that the principles and approaches

were being adhered to. If the scores were not satisfactory re-evaluation could take place further to any necessary adjustments. Partners would also be asked how they planned to use the tool.

- There was minimal reference to Councillors in the document; Councillors were democratically elected representatives, who were at the heart of the communities they represented, and it was considered that there should be a recognition of this and the importance of their role.
- Councillors would be an integral part of the Council's implementation plan.
- The language was considered to be difficult to access and not relatable for people within communities or front-line staff.
- The framework was organisational-facing but consideration could be given to providing a more accessible summary document to communicate partners' commitment to working in this way.
- There should be a focus on positive stories and successful role models from different groups or communities; negativity could impact on motivation, expectations and morale.
- It was agreed that people's stories were very important, the narrative was intended to be about empowerment.
- It was important to ensure that people other than the 'usual voices' were heard, but the views of these people were also valid; they were often very committed members of their community who wanted to make a difference.
- Social media was a rich source of information and monitoring could provide early indications of issues.
- Monitoring of social media was undertaken by the Communities Team and the Police; this could provide intelligence on potential tensions but also in respect of the local mediation and self-management of issues that took place within communities. It was acknowledged that social media and technology was an area where effectiveness could perhaps be improved. This was a fast-paced and potentially challenging area, particularly in the use of digital media that was not as visible.
- In terms of tackling inequity, the impact would become clearer once the work programmes using the framework were underway.
- Significant background research had been undertaken in developing the framework including advice from 'Belong' a national cohesion and integration network, practice from a range of partners and neighbouring local authorities, feedback from community consultations, and learning from how people worked together during the pandemic.
- A wider list of people/organisations had been engaged than those listed as participants in the design circles and strategic reference group.
- The implementation plan was critically important to provide clarity and allow people to use the framework effectively.
- In terms of how the community would be brought into decision-making; partners would use those parts of the framework that fitted with their organisation and governance structures. The practicalities of 'how' would be easier to see once the self-evaluation tools were applied to different projects to assess things such as what was being done well, what could be done better, were there people within the community who were not being heard?
- It was noted that, in some respects, the response that had been made to the pandemic was different to normal circumstances and a lot of the resource that

had been available within communities was no longer there, for a range of reasons. Whilst the aspiration to consult and engage with the wider community was welcomed there would be challenges associated with doing so.
- The challenges in consulting with the broader community were recognised. There was a wish to establish trust and to maintain a continued relationship, with a consistent approach and a commitment to reflect on the approach being taken, with services within the Council recognising the part they needed to play in that.
- It was considered that people knew how to, and would, get in touch with their local councillors if there was an issue they needed to raise. Most people would not choose to engage all of the time.
- Part of the feedback from the community had come from Place Standard work and it was considered that it supported this approach, although not everyone connected via a place.
- The document did not clearly refer to action and it was suggested that this could be strengthened.
- Ward councillors should be consulted in respect of establishing the understanding of community assets.

Resolved –

1) That the implementation plan be brought to the Committee for consideration at an early stage.
2) That the points raised by the Committee, be taken into account in the progression, and implementation, of the Inclusive Communities Framework and that Council be made aware of the Committee's views, as set out below, when the plan is submitted for endorsement:
    - The importance of the role of Councillors as representatives of their communities.
    - The need for realistic expectations, such as in respect of community input to decision-making.
    - The use of accessible and clear language.
    - The provision of a balance of stories.
    - Reference to all of the engagement undertaken.
    - The need for a focus on action as a key element.

10 Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027

A report was presented in respect of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027; the strategic plan to address multi-agency issues affecting quality of life for residents, as required by Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Councillor Carol Pattison, Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities was in attendance and introduced the plan. The Communities Board had made a commitment to develop co-ordinated partnership approaches to tackle the strategic priorities; to be informed by intelligence and data; to embed a place-based approach; to ensure safeguarding was at the heart of all work; and to address inequalities.

The key strategic priorities for the next five years were:
- Tackling Violence, Abuse and Exploitation
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Crime

- Reducing Risk
- Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities.

Jo Richmond – Head of Service, Communities, Lee Hamilton – Safer Kirklees Manager and Chris Walsh – Safer Kirklees Manager attended the meeting to introduce the report and gave a presentation highlighting the following points:

- The plan was informed by a Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) developed using data, intelligence and insight from partnerships, which was reviewed on an annual basis. Issues might also be included where they were of particular public concern.
- A number of partnership groups sat beneath the Board with a focus on particular priorities.
- Detail of the themes and work covered by each of the over-arching strategic priority headings.
- Performance measures and targets underneath each strategic priority.

Chief Superintendent Jim Griffiths from West Yorkshire Police was also in attendance. He welcomed the contribution that he and his senior leadership team had been able to make to the development of the plan, through working alongside partnership colleagues. It was important that the Partnership Plan sat alongside the wider policing plan for West Yorkshire and the three themes within that plan; reducing crime, protecting the vulnerable and providing reassurance to the public were reflected throughout the Partnership Plan.

Questions and comments were invited from the Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- Speeding was a constant issue of concern raised with Ward Councillors and through Place Standard work, but the plan did not appear to reflect this.
- It was understood that 'Community Speedwatch' was not supported by West Yorkshire Police and there was no option to report speeding on the website, which impacted on how it was prioritised. This issue was not just about injuries and fatalities; it had a day-to-day impact on how safe people felt in their locality and their wellbeing.
- Consideration needed to be given to what constituted anti-social behaviour, as this could be perceived differently by different people, and also the approach to neighbour disputes, as it was important to hear both sides.
- Chief Superintendent Griffiths explained that there were many serious issues addressed within the plan that were not visible to the public on a day-to day basis, unlike issues such as speeding, and there was a need to prioritise the available resources. He said that he would be keen to consider whether Community Speedwatch could be helpful in addressing the issue.
- Road safety, which included speeding, was included in the plan and was taken seriously. There was a Road Safety Partnership and investment had recently been made in hand-held speed monitoring devices for use, in partnership with the local community, in areas where there were persistent concerns.
- Safer Kirklees provided regular briefings for Ward Councillors and would contact them if there was an issue of concern in their area. The Police also held regular meetings with Councillors. Any ideas on other/better ways to engage would be welcomed.

- Ward Councillors should be involved in the development of this plan; they were central to their communities and were aware of their concerns and priorities.
- Addressing anti-social behaviour, including managing expectations and dealing with neighbour disputes, could be challenging. There was an intention to look at best practice from other areas and to review the approach.
- There were certain criteria, established by the Department of Transport in 2007, that had to be met in order for permanent speed cameras to be installed. This work was undertaken by the West Yorkshire Casualty Prevention Partnership.
- The themes in the plan had been developed using partnership data in the main; the Strategic Impact Assessment would be published on the website alongside the Plan.
- This was a well-presented document that was easy to read, and the monitoring of outcomes was welcomed. It would be helpful if any changes in priorities from the preceding plan were highlighted and for an update to be provided on progress.
- There had been a slight shift in priorities since the last plan, with violence against women and girls being an emerging priority and a stronger focus on water safety.
- Quarterly updates were provided to the Communities Partnership Board on the measures and each sub-group had its own delivery plan which included relevant measures. It was considered that the results had been skewed by the effects of the pandemic over the last two years so it was difficult to accurately determine progress in many areas. However, this plan set out a clear set of measures to provide a benchmark to allow meaningful monitoring of progress for the future.
- Positive outcomes should be celebrated.
- Organised crime and serious violence were complex issues, but it was considered that positive outcomes were being achieved as a result of the structured meetings that took place within the partnership and the established strategic and operational aims. A significant amount of early intervention work had also taken place, using funding from the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit. Intelligence data was used to identify the key areas of focus for this work, which was undertaken alongside community groups and schools and supported by enforcement undertaken by the police.
- It was confirmed that Safer Kirklees worked alongside other social housing providers, in addressing anti-social behaviour, as well as the Council.
- Work was ongoing in relation to the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy, with workshops due to take place during the Summer. In terms of the links with mental health; there were strong connections with Public Health and a range of partners would be involved in the development of the strategy which would be based around the three strands in the government strategy; early help and prevention, treatment and recovery and enforcement.

Resolved –

1) That the Communities Partnership Plan 2022-2027 be noted.
2) That the points raised by the Committee be taken into account in the progression, and implementation, of the Communities Partnership Plan and that Council be made aware of the Committee's views, as set out below, when the plan is submitted for endorsement:

- Councillors, as representatives of their communities, should be involved in the development of the Communities Partnership Plan.
- There should be a greater focus on speeding and road safety, to reflect the concern of residents.
- The importance of listening to both sides when addressing neighbour disputes.
- Outcomes and examples of good practice should be publicised.

11 Allocation of Co-optees 2022-23

The Committee was asked to consider the allocation of co-optees to the Scrutiny Panels, for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Resolved –

1) That the allocation of co-optees for the 2022/23 municipal year be approved, as set out in the report.
2) That the existing serving co-optees be thanked for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of Scrutiny in Kirklees.
3) That the following retiring co-optees are thanked for their service and commitment to the work of scrutiny:
   - Andrew Bird
   - Philip Chaloner
   - Lynne Keady
   - Dale O'Neil
   - Dave Rigby
   - Linda Summers

12 Agenda Plan 2022-23

The Committee's initial Agenda Plan for 2022-23 had been circulated for Member's consideration.