

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 6th March 2017

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Gulfam Asif
Councillor Ken Sims

In attendance: Councillor Erin Hill, Cabinet Member for Family Support and Child Protection
Linda Patterson, Senior Manager Improvement
Councillor Masood Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Schools
Carol Gilchrist, Head of Safe and Cohesive Communities
Chris Walsh, Safer Kirklees Manager

83 Membership of Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Fatima Khan-Shah – Statutory Education Co-optee.

84 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

85 Interests

No interests were declared.

86 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that all items be considered in public session.

87 Update on the Work of the CSE Panel and the Corporate Parenting Board

Councillor Erin Hill, Cabinet Member for Family Support and Child Protection and Linda Patterson, Senior Manager Improvement attended the Committee meeting to provide an update on the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation and Safeguarding Member Panel and the Corporate Parenting Board. Minutes of the meetings of the CSE and Safeguarding Member Panel from 4 November 2016 were circulated. In addition the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board held on 15 September 2016, 28 November 2016 and 16 January 2017 had been circulated for information.

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Councillor Hill reported that the members of the CSE and Safeguarding Panel had undertaken training around CSE issues and dependant on member feedback would consider how similar training could be made accessible to all members. The training had come in the form of a case scenario with information on a potential issue coming in from a range of sources. Members had found it informative to understand how a situation might appear to be one thing but as further information emerges it becomes something different and needs to be addressed in a different way.

In respect of the Corporate Parenting Board Councillor Hill reported that the terms of reference had been refreshed but would require a full Council decision. There were no major changes however the frequency of meetings was proposed to be approximately twice a term.

In addition Councillor Hill reported that the Corporate Parenting Board now had a data set which would be supported by a narrative and would ensure a positive member challenge to a consistent range of information. It would enable the Board to understand trends as well as any specific areas of concern.

In considering the report Councillor Stewart-Turner advised that the draft Improvement Plan, arising from the recent Ofsted inspection, had highlighted MAACSE. The Scrutiny Committee wanted to understand how this related to the work of the Panel. Councillor Hill advised that the multi-agency CSE work had lead sponsors of each work stream. Steve Cotter, West Yorkshire Police was the lead for the CSE work steam. The CSE Panel would receive regular updates on that work. Linda Pattison advised that there was an Operational Panel that was looking at specific cases but the CSE Panel would maintain an oversight of the work and any issues arising.

The Committee continued to explore the work that had been undertaken by Chris Porter, Health Development Officer on the West Yorkshire Risk Tool which would be used in the assessment of potential CSE cases. Further development and training was under way to promote partner agencies understanding of CSE. The Management Committee welcomed the introduction of the local risk scoring tools and asked for further feedback, once embedded, and how successful the approach had been.

The Management Committee continued to discuss the need for prevention work within communities to enable a proactive approach towards early intervention. Councillor Hill responded by saying there was work ongoing to look at awareness raising with local shops and businesses. It was acknowledged that Ofsted had identified that the Council was very good at having strategies and approaches once CSE had been identified however, prevention work could be strengthened.

There followed a discussion on the robustness of the revised performance indicators given that previous indicators has failed to identify issues that had subsequently been picked up by Ofsted. Councillor Hill advised that indicators on their own would not provide a full picture, it was important they were supported by a narrative and further intelligence. However she was confident that progress was being made with the quality of data, the regularity of reporting, and the consistency of information.

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The Committee noted that the CSE Panel had considered sex education in schools. The Management Committee had also identified this as an important issue and would be considering further information on the PSHE curriculum in the new municipal year. Councillor Hill emphasised that recent changes to make elements of education compulsory would help considerably in ensuring all schools were fulfilling their responsibilities. However it was important to note that it wasn't "one size fits all" for schools but most schools welcomed the range of tools and training that was available through the Local Authority. There was a brief discussion on how key messages might be shared with young people using social media. Councillor Hill reported that there is work being undertaken to develop an app to help with promoting appropriate information.

Councillor Hill continued to update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Board whose next meeting would be held in the evening at the University to enable young people from the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum to attend and put forward their views on specific issues.

There was a discussion on attendance at the Corporate Parenting Board but it was noted that in September a number of other meetings were taking place as a result of Ofsted but it was decided to continue with the Corporate Parenting Board as it was felt the issues on the agenda required timely discussion.

The Management Committee was interested in understanding progress towards regional adoption structures. Councillor Hill indicated that the first meeting of the steering group, involving elected members from across the district, was scheduled for mid April. Councillor Hill offered to provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee after that meeting had taken place.

Linda Patterson provided a brief update on some operational issues including the work being undertaken by Chris Porter. Funding had been made available by the Police Commissioner to pilot West Yorkshire foster placements for young people at risk of CSE. The opportunity was currently out to market testing with a view to establishing 10 foster placements across West Yorkshire. Whilst the underpinning principle was to keep children local, in some instances it was in the best interests of the child to locate them in another authority area.

In closing, Councillor Stewart-Turner commented on the draft Improvement Plan and suggested that reference to capturing the voice of the child was not reflected within the plan. Councillor Stewart-Turner indicated that the Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel had established that this was a significant focus of work and she felt that this should be reflected.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That Councillor Erin Hill and Linda Patterson be thanked for providing an update for the committee on the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation Safeguarding Member Panel and the Corporate Parenting Board.
- 2) That the update on the development of a data set for more effective performance monitoring be welcomed and noted.
- 3) That at the next update Councillor Hill provide further information on the progress of regional adoption approaches.

- 4) That consideration be given to the inclusion of additional information on the voice of the child as part of the improvement plan.

88 Crime and Disorder - Statutory Update

Councillor Masood Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Schools, Carol Gilchrist, Head of Safe and Cohesive Communities, and Chris Walsh, Safer Kirklees Manager attended the Committee meeting to provide an update on the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan. The Management Committee noted that it was one of Scrutiny's statutory responsibilities to consider the Community Safety Partnership Plan on at least an annual basis.

The report indicated that the Community Safety Plan 2005-18 had four key outcome themes, namely:

- Increasing confidence and satisfaction
- Reducing crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Protection people from serious harm

The Community Safety Partnership worked in a collaborative way to focus on tackling issues at the earliest possible point thereby preventing them from escalation. The approach helped to prevent issues from becoming more entrenched and damaging and was a more effective use of resources. Appended to the report were details of the partnership plan performance. It was noted that the total number of crimes recorded by West Yorkshire Police in the 12 months to December 2016 was 21% more than those reported in the same period in 2015. There was an element of changes in the way that crimes had been recorded that was impacting on all police forces. The Crime Survey for England and Wales was not impacted by these changes and suggested that crime had remained relatively stable, with the long term trend remaining downwards.

Within Kirklees the CLIK survey (Currently Living In Kirklees) undertaken in 2016 provided an overview of the perception of community safety issues in Kirklees. It indicated that most people (79%) were satisfied with the area in which they lived, with residents in rural areas being the most satisfied (90%). Feelings of safety are generally higher in daylight (88%) than after dark (65%).

The appendix continued to focus on current issues and provided updates on the following areas:

- Kirklees Victims Hub/services
- Preventative services
- Early resolution services
- High risk intensive cases
- Kirklees Hate Crime Strategy
- Refresh of Kirklees Gangs Strategy

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The report continued to provide an explanation of the revised approach to integrated community safety working between the Council and its partners. The new model aimed to mould services together and ensure seamless working across traditional agency boundaries. The approach had a prevention and early intervention focus which was underpinned by modern technology and the use of shared intelligence.

In discussing the report, Councillor Stewart-Turner expressed frustration that the ongoing changes to how crime was recorded had been used year on year to excuse the percentage rises in crime. Carol Gilchrist agreed to provide the Committee with the context to those changes so it would be clear which areas might have been impacted. There followed a discussion on what constituted a crime as oppose to an incident report.

The Committee noted that West Yorkshire Police were in the process of producing a report to provide a local picture around crime in the district and what was being undertaken to address the issues. This would be considered at the next meeting of the Community Safety Partnership. It was agreed that once available the report would also be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

The Committee continued to explore what was provided by the Victims Hub. It was noted that a drop in service was provided two days a week which could provide face to face support, both emotional and practical. On Mondays and Wednesdays any member of the public who perceived themselves to be a victim, or a witness to crime, could attend the Victims Hub, located at the Brian Jackson Centre in Huddersfield. The Committee welcomed the proposal, through funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, to establish a young person's victim support worker.

The Management Committee continued to discuss the definition of hate crime and explored the idea of third party reporting. It was noted that there were centres that people could go to to report hate crimes, this included the Hudawi Centre in Huddersfield.

The Management Committee discussed the refresh of the Gangs Strategy and the prevalence of the issue within the Kirklees district. It was noted that there had been a previous spike in activity which had been addressed. There was now a new resurgence of the issues that the team was working to address. The Management Committee was interested in receiving further information including data on the issue within the district.

In concluding the discussion the Committee looked at the integrated community safety working model. It was noted that all political groups had indicated that they wanted a stand alone digital platform to hold the information. This platform would enable actions to be prioritised and plotted with communication through in car and hand held technology to personnel located within the districts. This meant a much more responsive approach to tackling some issues immediately. Progress would be reviewed monthly at area team meetings and priorities set for the following month.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That Councillor Masood Ahmed, Carol Gilchrist and Chris Walsh be thanked for attending the committee to present the update on the Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- 2) That the committee be provided with a list of the changes to reporting criteria for recorded crimes.
- 3) That once available, the West Yorkshire Police report on cyber crime be circulated to the committee for information.
- 4) That a further update be considered at a future meeting on the refresh of the Kirklees gangs strategy. Carol Gilchrist to provide the committee with statistical information in relation to gangs within the Kirklees district.
- 5) That the committee be provided with recent data concerning the incidence of fly tipping within the district.

89 Community Cohesion

Councillor Ahmed, Carol Gilchrist and Chris Walsh continued to give an update on Community Cohesion work in Kirklees, being provided through the Connecting Communities Programme.

The report indicated that the Kirklees Connecting Communities Programme was an approach to building good community cohesion and community relations across the district, through four strands of work:

- Managing and monitoring community tensions
- Promoting commonality and shared belonging
- Perceptions of fairness
- Breaking barriers at a young age

The Connecting Communities Leadership Team, ensured that evidence based intelligence was in place for community cohesion and included both statistical data and qualitative information on priority areas for community cohesion interventions.

Recent examples of work to enhance cohesion included working with schools to create opportunities for children from different backgrounds to build good relationships for the future. Work with women's groups to empower and inspire women to be more active in community life. The use of a participatory budgeting model to stimulate more community activity to bring neighbours together to participate in community activities.

The Committee noted that Dame Louise Casey had undertaken a review of community cohesion, focused specifically on boosting opportunities and integration within the country. The review had published in 2016 and the 12 recommendations arising, which had implications for policy at national and local levels, were appended to the report. The Connecting Communities Programme was benchmarking its current work programme around the recommendations of the Casey review.

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The Management Committee welcomed that activities to encourage the integration of different neighbourhoods were not labelled as community cohesion. It was important that they were seen as real opportunities to get to know and understand people from different communities.

The Committee discussed perceptions of fairness and the work being undertaken as part of this. Carol Gilchrist explained how staff conversations aimed to challenge common perceptions such as “no jobs for local people”. The Management Committee questioned how the programme was able to establish baselines against which progress could be measured, giving the complexity of the work strands.

The Committee also discussed how elected members were involved or received information concerning activities to bring people together. It was acknowledged that this was an area that required further consideration. There had been some engagement with District Committees and Carol Gilchrist suggested that Councillor Ahmed might join the Community Cohesion Leadership Team however it was acknowledged that the service needed to look at other ways of ensuring elected members had the opportunity to be engaged.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the update on the community cohesion work in Kirklees, as part of the Connecting Communities Programme, to be received and noted.
- 2) That further consideration is given on how elected members are engaged in community cohesion work and have an awareness of work within the area.

90 Date of Next Meeting/OSMC Agenda Plan

The Management Committee considered arrangements for the meeting on 27 March 2017, including the initial discussion on the background to the bus gates project.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the next meeting of the committee be held on 27 March 2017.
- 2) That the agenda plan for the meeting, including the extended session to allow for discussion of the Bus Gates project, be noted.