

## **Scrutiny Board Recommendations**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the recommendations which resulted from the last round of scrutiny board meetings.
- 1.2 Where the overview and scrutiny board makes recommendations in a formal report for consideration by Council Cabinet, rules OS23 and OS24 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure) Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply. Rule OS23 requires the Council or Council Cabinet to consider the report of the overview and scrutiny board within one month of it being submitted to the proper officer, and rule OS24 requires the Council Cabinet to respond to the board indicating what, if any, action the Council Cabinet proposes to take.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the recommendations and requests made to officers, Cabinet Members and Council Cabinet by the scrutiny boards and any decisions made by Council Cabinet.
- 2.2 To add any subsequent items into the scrutiny board work programmes to enable the scrutiny boards to monitor the implementation and progress of agreed recommendations.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure that board members are aware of recommendations made to Council Cabinet, Cabinet Members and significant requests to council officers over and above preparing reports for the scrutiny board to consider.
- 3.2 To ensure that board members can monitor the responses of recommendations made to Council Cabinet, Cabinet Members and officers.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Planning, Housing and Leisure Board Recommendations – 10 Sept 2013**

#### 4.1 **28/13 Welfare Reform – Update on the Impact of Changes**

The Board considered a report which set out details of the impacts of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. The report stated that the Act set out the biggest change to the welfare system in over 60 years, with the Government stating their commitment to deliver a total saving of £18 billion over five years. A number of the reforms had already come into force on 1 April 2013. Further changes would be implemented through 2013 with an expected completion date for all changes to be in place by 2017.

- 4.2 It was resolved to raise the Board's concerns with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Advice of the impacts of welfare reform (particularly the impacts of bedroom tax and the adverse effects on children living in affected households) and request a report and action plan on how the impacts were being dealt with.

#### 4.3 **30/13 Libraries Update – Opening Hours, Volunteering and the Local Studies Library**

The Board considered a report which stated that library opening hours were last changed in January 2012. The board heard that by working closely with the Leisure and Cultural Development Team some increase in opening hours may be possible in autumn 2013 for five libraries. This was as a result of the b-You Live Well Health Hubs being delivered from these libraries, which also provided the funding for any changes through the project. Volunteers also provided a significant and growing support for library services. Their contribution spanned a large number of activities that supported the service delivery. Preparation and planning was underway to relocate the Local Studies Library to the former Magistrates Court on Full Street.

- 4.4 It was resolved to request the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods to form links with Neighbourhoods Forums to try and attract more volunteers.

#### 4.5 **31/13 b-You Live Well Health Hubs**

The Board considered a report which stated that from April 2013, Leisure and Cultural Development were commissioned by Public Health to provide an Integrated Lifestyle Service in Derby. This attracted £1.5 million of funding each year for three years with an option to extend for a further two years.

This new b-You Live Well Service aimed to reach 3,000 people and their families a year. 50% of the clients joining the scheme had to come from the areas of highest health inequality in the city. To ensure the service reached into and had a presence in local communities a number of b-You Live Well Health Hubs were being established.

The first five Health Hubs would be located at five libraries in the city and would be referred to as b-You Live Well Libraries. These libraries were Alvaston library; the Philip Whitehead Memorial Library, Chaddesden Park; Mackworth Library; Peartree Library and Sinfyn Library. These locations had been chosen as they were in the areas of high health inequality. Some increase in opening hours at these libraries may be possible due to the health hubs being located there, which would be fully

funded through the project. There was a potential to locate a further three Health Hubs at Springwood Library, Derby Moor Community School and Chellaston Library.

Members of the Board suggested that links be formed with GP Practices, outreach workers in the community, health professionals, Council colleagues and schools.

- 4.6 It was resolved to note the suggestions from Members of the Board identifying where further links could be identified in the community which could be explored to help contribute to the project's success.

4.7 **32/13 Work Programme and Topic Reviews**

The Board considered a report which set out potential work plans and topic reviews for the forthcoming municipal year to enable a work programme to be developed. The Board also considered the draft Homelessness Topic Review Report.

- 4.8 It was resolved:

1. To agree the current work programme for the forthcoming year set out in appendix 2 of the report.
2. To approve the Homelessness Topic Review Report as the final report subject to the minor amendments highlighted at the meeting.
3. To approve the dissemination of recommendations resulting from the homelessness Topic Review to Council Officers, and other partnership organisations and service providers where the recommendations fell outside the direct remit and responsibility of the Council.

4.9 **33/13 Outdoor Cycle Track Update**

The Board considered a report which gave an update of the outdoor cycling circuit and provided a summary of the key features of the proposed facility; some key reasons why it was proposed to submit a planning application for the facility to be built on the nature reserve land at the side of the multi use sports arena; the key next steps and the feedback that had been received to date for the initial public consultation exhibition that was held on 25 July 2013.

- 4.10 The Board had received a letter from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of a number of organisations setting out their concerns about the proposals. Some Board Members expressed concerns about the proposed location of the outdoor cycling circuit. They were keen to see a facility but were concerned about the location of it. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods explained that the proposal was subject to planning approval and that process would look at impact assessments and design.

- 4.11 It was resolved to:

1. note the information in the report regarding this key project.
2. support the development of a closed outdoor cycling circuit but note that concerns had been raised on the proposed location of the development by a number of

ecological groups. The Board requested that the Service Director of Leisure and Culture and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods note these concerns and consider the concerns raised in the submission from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in the preparation of any future plans.

Councillors J Khan, Pegg and Wood requested that their abstention from voting in the above item be recorded.

### **Adults and Public Health Board Recommendations – 12 September 2013**

#### **4.12 Update from East Midlands Ambulance Services Trust on the Being the Best Programme**

Further to the Board's statutory health scrutiny responsibility (which enabled it to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the city) the Board received a presentation from the Director of Corporate Affairs of the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) (service provider) and the Chief Executive of Erewash Clinical Commissioning Group (service commissioner) on EMAS's performance and Being the Best programme.

4.13 Both presenters assured the Board that EMAS's performance in the city with regards to 8 minutes and 19 minutes response times had exceeded their targets, although they conceded that there had been regional problems. EMAS responded to the Board's questions and outlined some of their initiatives to improve performance.

4.14 It was resolved to:

1. note and welcome the fact that despite the financial pressures, the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) had met its targets within Derby city and maintained services.
2. recommend that any future changes to EMAS should ensure that the quality of services provided to Derby be maintained or improved but not reduced to the lowest common denominator.
3. recommend that regional initiatives which aim to improve services to patients should also be considered and applied in Derby as in other areas.
4. request an update on EMAS's performance in respect of winter pressures be provided to the Board at the meeting due to be held on 14 April 2014.

#### **4.15 22/13 Review of Walk-in Services in the City of Derby by Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group**

The Chief Executive and the Commissioning Manager of Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group presented the consultation programme on Review of Walk-in Services. They explained that there were two walk-in services in the city; a nurse led walk-in centre based at Osmaston Road and the Open Access Centre operating from St Thomas Road. During 2012, the two centres between them treated more than 80,000 patients. It was explained that without these centres, it was likely that Accident

and Emergency services would have come under even more pressure. Contracts for both centres had been aligned and extended to March 2015, allowing the Clinical Commissioning Group to conduct a detailed review.

4.16 It was resolved to:

1. note that although the need and demand for walk-in services is growing, funding has been allocated by the Clinical Commissioning Group to maintain and improve the service.
2. request an update on the consultation at the meeting due to be held on 11 November 2012.

4.17 **23/13 Derby Safeguarding Adults at Risk Board's Annual Report 2013/13 and Action Plan 2013/15**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing, which invited it to consider current performance in safeguarding adults who may be at risk, as well as the effectiveness of partnership plans to improve the systems and joint-working across the city to keep people safe. The Board understood that leadership in the safeguarding of adults was delivered via a multi-agency board with an independent chair.

4.18 Allan Breeton, Independent Chair of the Derby Safeguarding Adults Board presented the annual report, together with the 2013-15 action plan. Members considered Derby's recent performance in safeguarding adults. It was reported that safeguarding referrals within the city had dropped, suggesting that the provision of clearer guidance on thresholds had been effective.

4.19 It was resolved to:

1. note the report and the hard work undertaken by the Safeguarding Board, which is reflected in its annual report.
2. commend the high level actions plan proposed by the Safeguarding Board.
3. recommend safeguarding training to all councillors to help them fulfil the duty of care they owe in respect of safeguarding adults, particularly with regards to reporting adults at risk, in view of the fact that the nature of councillors' work brings them into direct contact with vulnerable people.
4. encourage efforts to raise awareness and build confidence amongst the hard to reach groups, enabling them to recognise and report suspected abuse.
5. request that Derby Safeguarding Adults at Risk Board returns to a future scrutiny meeting to present it's next annual report, together with an update on the effectiveness of the 2013/15 Action Plan.

4.20 **24/13 Grant Aid Funding Levels for Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations**

The Board received an updated report from the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health which requested the Board to consider and comment on the methodology used to determine grant funding levels to voluntary community and faith (VCF) sector organisations. It was reported that the Council faced a very serious financial situation in terms of the level of savings required to achieve a balanced budget for 2014/15 and beyond. The Board understood that an estimated saving of circa £30m per annum would be required annually over the next five years.

4.21 The Board discussed the proposed percentage reductions, particularly for those organisations which would receive a 100% reduction in funding. The Cabinet Member explained that the approach used to determine the reductions aimed to achieve consistent outcomes but the budget constraints required a focus on the provision of statutory services. The information provided by organisations, as part of the consultation process, had been a key factor in evaluating their contributions. The Strategic Director advised the Board that it was important to preserve a range of services to ensure, where possible, that any risk posed to Council was spread across a range of service providers.

**4.22 It was resolved to:**

1. note the implications of the massive reduction in grant aid funding levels for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations and the impact this will have on the services provided by those organisations.
2. note that any further reduction in funding will have a devastating impact on preventative services provided by voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.
3. note that Adults Health and Housing Directorate continues to work with National Health Service and other partners to provide joint funding to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.
4. recognise the need to employ the methodology cited in section 4.5 of the report to determine the grant funding allocation.
5. recommend that new services providers be given an opportunity to bid for grant aid funding if existing providers are assessed as not providing effective services.

**Children and Young People Board Recommendations – 24 Sept 2013**

**4.23 17/13 Derby Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report**

The Board received a report on Derby Safeguarding Children Board – Annual Report. The report was presented by the Independent Chair of the Board and the Board manager.

4.24 Members noted that the DSCB had undertaken two Serious Case Reviews and that it wished to publish the resulting reports as soon as possible, and were only delayed by current legal constraints. Members discussed the importance of the police and other

agencies sharing information, in relation to safeguarding issues.

4.25 Members asked what work was being done with parents to combat internet exploitation and cyber bullying. It was reported that the DSCB has undertaken work around child sexual exploitation and shared information and that the DSCB had also carried out sessions in schools with parents. Members noted that when children are learning about the internet in schools, they are also taught about online safety. Members of Voices in Action, who attended the meeting, reported that schools block access to certain websites but there were ways to get around the blocks. The Chair of the DSCB reported that young people do use social media and rather than blocking sites it was more important for them to understand the risks and how to stay safe.

4.26 Members of Voices in Action asked what was being done in relation to domestic violence. The Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding, reported that a big development had been the co-location arrangements with the Police. Members noted that two Council officers were now able to look at all referrals and reports of domestic violence where children were involved or lived in the household. This arrangement allowed for an earlier opportunity to talk to other agencies and offer support to families.

4.27 It was resolved:

1. to request that the next DSCB Annual Report be brought before the Board.
2. to consider how the Children and Young People Board could develop links with the DSCB to ensure that the DSCB is effectively scrutinised in the future.

4.28 **18/13 Adoption Update**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Adoption Update. The report was presented by the Acting Director of Specialist Services. The report provided Members with an update on improvement plans for adoption and detailed the current and future plans for 2013-2014.

4.29 Members noted that an adoption diagnostic assessment was held over the week of 3 June 2013 and was commissioned from Core Assets Consultancy and Resourcing and BAAF utilising the Adoption Reform Grant. It was reported that this was viewed by the service as good preparation for the awaited Ofsted Adoption Inspection during 2013 to 2014.

4.30 Members discussed the difficulties around placing hard to place children, including the use of innovative approaches and the importance of marketing to attract potential adopters. Members agreed that it was better to have any marketing done corporately.

4.31 It was resolved:

1. to note the contents of the report including work to date and future actions.
2. to request that a progress report on the 10 objectives be brought to a future

meeting of the Board.

3. to request that a report on marketing to attract adopters be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

#### **4.32 19/13 Inspections and Assessments Update**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Inspections and Assessments Update – Children’s Services. The report was presented by the Improvement Partner – Children and Young people.

- 4.33 It was reported that in December 2012, Derby’s services for the protection of children were inspected by Ofsted and judged to be ‘good’ and that a new inspection framework for local authority support of school improvement was also published by Ofsted in June 2013 and Derby had prepared a self-assessment, with supporting evidence log in anticipation of an inspection.

- 4.34 Members expressed concerns about the numbers of Ofsted inspections in terms of the additional strain that they put on resources while the inspections were taking place. Members noted that one of the areas for improvement listed at Appendix 2 of the report was that Corporate Parenting should consider visiting out of area placements. Members wished it to be noted that the Board had previously made this recommendation but it had not been taken up. Members agreed that the recommendation be explored again.

- 4.35 It was resolved:

1. to note changes to the inspection frameworks for vulnerable groups to be introduced from November 2013 (Appendix 2).
2. to note current performance on inspections and sector-led improvement preparations and consider further opportunities for Scrutiny involvement and/or challenge.
3. to recommend that Corporate Parenting visits to out of area placements be explored.

#### **4.36 20/13 Review of 2012/13 and 2013/14 Quarter 1 Performance Report**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People on Review of 2012/13 and 2013/14 Quarter 1 Performance. The report was presented by the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding.

- 4.37 It was reported that at the end of 2012/13, 66 per cent of all performance measures for Children and Young People’s Service achieved target and 66 per cent had improved from 2011/12. It was further reported that there were a total of fourteen performance measures reviewed during 2012/13, of which 11 were discussed at a performance surgery. Members noted that, of the 11 considered at the end of quarter one, two were adrift of target. It was reported that the two measures now had action plans.



4.38 It was resolved to:

1. review progress against those measures considered through a performance surgery during 2012/13 and highlight measures for further review.
2. note performance at the end of June 2013 and to identify any measures for consideration at a performance surgery at the end of quarter two.

4.39 **22/13 Child Poverty Strategy**

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy. The report was presented by the Service Director, Early Intervention and Integrated Safeguarding. It was reported that the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action was a Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships (DCNP) document that was being developed and delivered by the Derby Child and Family Poverty Commission (DCFPC). It was further reported that the strategy comprised a number of key areas for action and supporting work programmes to deliver positive change in each area and that the work programmes were initiated and overseen by the DCFPC and to date had focused on short and medium term interventions.

4.40 Members noted that since the adoption of the strategy by the DCNP Leadership Board in June, a number of actions had already been taken and these were outlined in paragraph 4.9 of the report and included the following:

- the introduction of the bulk buy energy scheme;
- the expansion of the food bank donation network in the city;
- a review of affordable banking provision in the city; and
- the development of a Credit Union Development Group.

4.41 Members expressed concerns about the setting up of rival food banks to ones that already existed. It was reported that the aim was to try and support or work with the food banks that already existed.

4.42 It was resolved to:

1. note the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action.
2. note the current work programme for each Area for Action.
3. note the action that has already been taken.
4. request that the Head of Policy, Research and Engagement be invited to a future meeting of the Board to provide an update on the long term area of action, 'breaking the cycle'.
5. request that Members be invited to observe the next meeting of the DCFPC.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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5.1 No other options have been considered.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Mahroof Hussain, Scrutiny Manager
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Clare Harrison 01332 643648clare.harrison@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report may lead to financial implications, however these have not been determined at this stage.

### **Legal**

- 2.1 Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure) set out a series of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. Rules OS23 and OS24 are particularly relevant to this report. Where recommendations are made by the overview and scrutiny board; rule OS23 requires the Council or Council Cabinet to consider the report of the overview and scrutiny board within one month of it being submitted to the proper officer, and rule OS24 requires the Council Cabinet to respond to the board indicating what, if any, action the Council Cabinet proposes to take.

### **Personnel**

- 3.1 The workload of Council personnel may increase, or priorities may be altered due to recommendations outlined in this report.

### **Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

### **Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

### **Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

- 8.1 The proposals set out in this report would act to ensure that Chief Officers are aware of information being released into the public domain through scrutiny meetings, thereby reducing the risk of unforeseen media and public interest.

### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 Scrutiny supports the improvement of services delivered across the Council (and by accountable external partners) to fulfil the corporate priorities and ensure the people

in Derby enjoy good quality services that meet local needs.