

Time Commenced – 18:02
Time Finished – 20:40

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Board

17 January 2017

Present: Councillor Stanton (Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Carr, Graves, Hezelgrave, Jackson, J
Khan, Pegg, Poulter, Webb and Whitby

In Attendance: Martyn Marples, Christine Durrant, Andy Smith, Kirsty Everson, Perveez Sadiq, David Enticott, Gurmail Nizzer, Kas Sahota, Sarah Walker, Clare Harrison (minutes).

54/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hassall, J Khan and Williams.

55/16 Late Items

There were no late items.

56/16 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Webb declared an interest in housing related items due to being Council-appointed Members of the Derby Homes Board. This did not preclude Members from participating in discussions or taking part in any potential vote-taking.

57/16 Minutes of the meetings held on 06 December 2016 and 20 December 2016

Minutes of the meetings held on 06 December 2016 and 20 December 2016.

58/16 Forward Plan

The Board considered the contents of the Forward Plan published on 20 December 2016. No new items were added to the Board's Work Programme.

The Board resolved to note the Forward Plan.

59/16 Performance Items and Performance Forward Plan

Members received a detailed performance update from the Policy and Improvement Manager and Director of People Services which gave the Board an overview of the surgeries that have taken place over the last 18 months. It was reported that performance surgeries had been completed on the following topics:

- Rising demand for early help and social care services
- Missing
- Educational attainment of Derby's looked after children
- Special educational needs and disabilities
- Mocksted

Members were informed that a number of actions had resulted from each of the surgeries which aimed to improve performance, and that some of these had already been achieved.

It was reported that in relation to rising demand for early help and social care services, an action plan was being developed to promote positive role models for boys accessing early help and social care services, and work was being done to engage fathers, particularly where they are absent.

In relation to children 'Missing from care', the Board was informed that the governance arrangements were being strengthened through the Strategic Missing Group, and that the timeliness of return interviews had significantly improved. A lot was also being done on profiling and risk, to better understand and deal with those going missing for different reasons.

Actions in relation to the educational attainment of Derby's looked after children were being focussed around the monitoring of fixed term exclusions and strengthening relationships between social care and the Virtual School. The Board discussed issues around out of area children and the importance of stability. Councillor Webb mentioned some work that he had previously done on the Gatsby Project Board, and that there may be some use in revisiting the outcomes of this.

It was reported that a cohort of 36 children is being assessed and tracked through the system to enable learning and improvement. Work on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and in particular on the conversion of statements to EHCPs is still a priority and although work is being done to reduce the backlog, there is still a lot to get through as new EHCPs enter the system. Members were informed that governance and Improvement Board arrangements had been strengthened to support this and that a tender exercise is being completed to try and address the backlog as quickly as possible. The Board was assured that a lot of work was being done on this to ensure that the tender specification would be right and would not result in sacrificing the quality of resulting EHCPs by trying to process these quickly.

Members were informed that work resulting from the Mocksted findings have been progressing in the areas of Early Help and protection; Looked After Children; and leadership, management and governance. However, it was further reported that 'quality of life story books' and integration of SEND in current processes are two key areas that have not sufficiently progressed since Mocksted and which now require immediate attention. This was being addressed through a number of actions including updating the SIF self-assessment by the end of January 2017 and reviewing the improvement plan by the end of March 2017, as well as refreshing the SEND self-assessment with the single improvement plan by the end of March 2017. The Board was informed that a further report on progress from Mocksted will be considered by the Inspiring Young People Overview and Scrutiny Board in April 2017.

Members received a further presentation on Adult Social Care residential admissions, nursing and safeguarding from the Director of Adults and Health. Performance figures were presented against our Local Authority comparators and against national averages. It was reported that the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) measures count the number of new permanent (long term) admissions to both residential and nursing care and express them as a rate per 100,000 for both adults aged 18-64 and adults aged over 65. It was further reported that the aim is to prevent inappropriate permanent admissions where community based placements may offer more independence often supported through personal budgets or direct payments.

Members were informed that for both measures, meeting local targets has been challenging because of the Council's commitment to maximising independence and ordinary lives by moving customers out of residential and nursing care. However, performance trends and comparisons against peer groups have been very positive despite rising demand and more complex needs.

It was reported that for younger adults we have historically set a challenging low target (less than 4 placements) to keep them out of residential care, and this is significantly lower than national figures and our comparators. Keeping people out of residential for both categories has been achieved by schemes such as the Supported Living Scheme, Shared Lives and through Extra Care. Members were informed that projected figures suggest that for the over 65 category, 500 additional people are expected to enter residential care over the residential care system at a projected increased cost of £13-15m.

The Board was informed that in relation to the quality of care, domiciliary and residential care were good, however, nursing care is an issue of concern with 52% of homes 'requiring improvement', which is below the national average, of which 64% are 'good'. However, it was reported that unlike our local authority comparators, Derby has seen no Care Quality Commission Enforcement Action since 2014.

The Board had a detailed discussion around the required processes for Deprivation of Living (DOL) Cases, which are very costly to the Council and are growing. Members felt that the requirements of having to carry out a mental assessment using Section 12 Doctors and pay for advocacy as frequently as every 3-6 months for each individual affected was an unrealistic

expectation and burden on Local Government resources.

The Board resolved to raise this issue with the Department for Communities and Local Government and involve local MPs to request a review of these processes and try to find an alternative, less costly way, of dealing with DOLs cases.

60/16 Council Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Recommendations

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which allowed the scrutiny board to receive responses from Council Cabinet on recommendations made at the previous Board meeting held on 07 December 2016. It was highlighted that recommendations arising from the Performance Items at the previous Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board had not been reported on.

The Board resolved to request an update at the next meeting on the Council Cabinet Response to recommendations made on the Performance Items at the meeting of 06 December 2016.

61/16 Council Cabinet Agenda

The Board considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Council Cabinet Agenda. Members considered the Council Cabinet Agenda in its entirety for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18 January 2017 and made a number of comments and recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Item 8 - Adoption of Derby City Local Plan Part 1 (Core Strategy)

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and City Centre Regeneration and Strategic Director Communities and Place to agree modifications to the Local Plan document and to agree the adoption of the Local Plan.

The Board expressed concern in relation to the Inspector's modifications which effectively remove 'green' elements of the plan and elements which relate to meeting Derby's future needs for affordable housing, lifetime homes and care for an aging population and were keen to see these addressed in some way. However, the Board recognised the need for sound plan and for this to be adopted.

The Board resolved to:

- 1. Welcome the adoption of the plan but noted that this would need to be reviewed in future years.**
- 2. Note that further work would need to be done in future years in relation to the provision of affordable housing and services for the growing aging population.**

Item 9 - Council Tax Base for 2017/18

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Policy and Director of Finance to approve the council tax base for 2017/18.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 10 - Changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme from 01 April 2017

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Policy and Director of Finance to approve changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

Members queried the communication of these changes and were informed that all affected residents would receive confirmation of these changes in their annual Council Tax letter.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 11 - Secondary School Place Planning - The Bemrose School Project

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Director for People Services to commit to and approve the contribution of funds for additional classrooms at the Bemrose School.

Members asked if the expansion would mean a change to the catchment area for the scheme but were informed that the catchment area would remain the same and the expansion was to cover growth within the existing catchment.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 12 - Council Housing Rent and Service Charges for 2017/18

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Cabinet Member for Urban Renewal and Strategic Director for Communities and Place to agree a 1% reduction in Council rents and increase Supported Housing Rent. It was reported to the Board that the increase for those in Supporting Housing would be covered by Housing Benefit for those in receipt of Housing Benefit.

It was acknowledged by the Board that the message for Supported Housing tenants would be a difficult one to deliver and that these implementations would impair the Council's ability to deliver affordable housing in the short-term.

The Board resolved to note the report.

Item 13 - Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

Members considered a Council Cabinet report of the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on items that require reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules.

It was reported that items included:

- Award of a grant to Ripplez;
- Establishing a new reserve for Parkland View Extra Care Scheme;
- Submission of an Expression of Interest to bid for Sport England and Football Association funding to deliver new football provision;
- Changes to the current Capital Programme;
- Use of reserves to fund asset valuation, and for Section 106 Funds be transferred to the NHS for practice improvements and for the Chellaston Tree Scheme.

The Board queried a number of items on Appendix 2 'Changes to the capital programme made under delegation'. Members requested further contextual information to be circulated to the Board on the cost of Fire Risk Assessments and to individual members with specific queries on other items. Members also queried the cause of issues relating to valuations which have resulted in the current position. The Board was keen to examine the causes for this and ensure that it does not happen again in future.

The Board resolved to request a future report to the April or May meeting in relation to the performance of valuations.

MINUTES END