

AT A MEETING of the SAFE AND HEALTHY PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Friday 23 November 2012.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Liz Fairhurst

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Roger Kimber

Councillors:

p Ann Buckley	a Eric Neal
p Alan Dowden	p Jackie Porter
p Jane Frankum	p David Simpson
p Michael Geddes	p Patricia Stallard
a Mark Kemp-Gee	p Pat West
p Pam Mutton	

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman:
Barbara Crofton, Hampshire LINK representative
Councillor Felicity Hindson MBE, Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Keith Mans, Executive Member for Communities and International Relations and Chairman of the Hampshire County Strategy Group

100. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee.

101. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Councillor Ann Buckley declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

Councillor Jackie Porter declared a non-pecuniary interest as she runs a charity that helps troubled children.

102. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Select Committee held on the 20 July 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

There were two matters arising from the minutes:

That the village agents scheme had been well received by Parish and Town Councils. It was requested that the Committee receive an update on the scheme at a future meeting.

That an article in the Guardian newspaper of the 26 September 2012 highlighted the debate about the crisis facing elderly care, and referenced Hampshire's move to alternative opportunities for carers and users of learning disability day centres to enable greater freedom:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/local-government-network/2012/sep/26/local-government-adult-social-care>

103. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman did not make any announcements.

104. **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

The Committee, as part of its statutory duty under the Police and Justice Act 2006, has the power to scrutinise the responsible authorities under the County Strategy Group. The Committee welcomed the Chairman of the County Strategy Group to provide an overview of the work of the Group, prior to the Committee receiving a series of presentations on issues relating to crime and disorder.

(Take in report and letter)

Members heard:

- That the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Mr Simon Hayes, officially took office on the 22 November 2012, following national elections on the 15 November 2012.
- That the Police and Crime Commissioner will be responsible for commissioning services which are

That the Guardian article be circulated to members of the Committee.

currently provided by the County Council and other responsible authority partners under the umbrella of the County Strategy Group.

- That the Chairman of the County Strategy Group had recently written to the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, inviting him to discuss opportunities for future joint working with the County Strategy Group, and to discuss priorities relevant to Hampshire.

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Policy and Governance on the Supporting Troubled Families Programme in Hampshire.

(Take in presentation)

Members heard:

- That the Troubled Families programme is a new national Government initiative which is designed to make positive changes to the lives of families who are of 'high cost' to the state.
- That the programme will build on existing initiatives such as Family Intervention Project programmes, which provide funded places across Hampshire to families involved in anti-social behaviour affecting neighbourhoods. Evidence from the Family Intervention Project programmes has indicated that perseverance and assertive support are key to engaging families in programme participation.
- That 'Troubled Families' are defined as households who meet at least two of the three following criteria: are involved in crime and anti-social behaviour; have children not in school; and have an adult on out of work benefits. Local discretion filters can be used to include other 'high cost' families on a case by case basis. Families with younger children will also be considered on this basis.
- That through partnership working and transforming ways of working, Hampshire will help 530 families in the first year of the three year programme, and a total of 1,590 families by the end of year three. A high level plan of support will be created for each individual family taking into consideration each family member.
- That the Department of Communities and Local Government will provide one-off grant funding of £3m, with further funding of £2.3m available on a payment by results basis. An additional amount of £900,000 will be invested by Hampshire County Council.
- That an independent assessment will determine the success of the Hampshire Troubled Families programme.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the 530 troubled families have been identified for year one of the programme, and the geographical breakdown for each District and Borough Council area

That the Cabinet report on Supporting Troubled Families Programme of the 29 October 2012 be circulated to the Committee.

has been identified. That this information is included in a report approved by Cabinet on the 29 October 2012.

- That families will not be penalised for non-engagement in the programme, but participation will be taken into account if the family are at risk of, for example, eviction by the Housing Association and as a result, more opportunities may be presented to the family to redeem the situation.
- That intensive support may be appropriate for families when they are first referred in to the programme, but over a period of time and as families progress successfully, a less intensive framework may be more suitable, reducing the need for daily support. Results from the Family Intervention Project programme have concluded that this method of working will ensure effective use of resources.
- That Local Co-ordination Groups will provide roundtable discussions with schools to target low pupil attendance rates.
- That it was hoped that the success of the programme would lead to fewer referrals of these families on to statutory organisations.

RESOLVED:

That an update is provided to the Committee on the Troubled Families programme in Autumn 2013.

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Adult Services on Commissioning Domestic Abuse Services.

(Take in presentation)

Members heard:

- That annually Hampshire has 14,000 reported incidents of domestic abuse, although it is thought that this only reflects 25% of incidents. Of these incidents, the estimated ratio of the victims approximately is 89% female, 11% male. Historically domestic abuse services have been targeted towards female victims.
- That 5/6 domestic homicides are committed annually in Hampshire, and each homicide is the subject of an in-depth review.
- Hampshire currently provides 4.5 full time equivalent Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) which support 410 individuals annually. A recent independent review has suggested that this figure should be increased to 21, but limited resources currently constrain extra recruitment. A review of the services is therefore being undertaken in order to see how resources can be organised more sustainably across the County.
- That four commissioning options for victim and family based services are currently being considered. The preferable option would seek to increase capacity and

focus on community based services.

- That the tender process will commence in April 2013 following on from the agreement and development of a commissioning model.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That there are not currently refuges designated for male victims of domestic abuse in Hampshire.
- That incidents of domestic abuse in the armed forces are often dealt with internally. Work is ongoing with these organisations to encourage an improvement in this system to provide more effective support for victims.
- That an improvement in the quality of follow up services for victims in refuge accommodation is needed to ensure that greater emphasis is placed on re-settlement services for victims and families, and to release urgent residences for those requiring crisis accommodation.

RESOLVED

That an update is provided to the Committee on The commissioning of the final Domestic Abuse model when available.

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Policy and Governance on how responsible authorities across the County work in partnership and with local housing to reduce Anti-Social behaviour.

(Take in presentation)

Members heard:

- That Hampshire has a team of 45 Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs) who engage in partnership working with District and Borough Councils, the Police, housing associations and other local organisations.
- That data has shown that the presence of ACSOs in the community can be attributed to low levels of anti-social behaviour.
- That liaising with the parents or guardians of youths committing anti-social behaviour can help to deter such behaviours, and feedback from parents and guardians has been mostly positive to this initiative.
- That much of this work is coordinated through the Community Safety Partnerships, and all partners contribute.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That deterring continued anti-social behaviour can often be successfully achieved by implementing a system of restorative justice, which enables victims of crime to confront those responsible.
- That partnership working in areas such as Valley Park in

Eastleigh has proved successful in involving organisations such as Youth Clubs and Parish Councils in efforts to reduce anti-social behaviour.

- That the victims of anti-social behaviour will often be reluctant to present evidence at court for fear of repercussions or being cross-examined in the witness box. ACSOs are able to present evidence at court on the victims' behalf.
- That Community Safety teams will liaise closely with the Troubled Families Programme.

RESOLVED:

That an update is provided on the work of the Community Safety Service at the next Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Meeting of the Safe and Healthy People Select Committee.

105. **ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH ALCOHOL PROBLEMS**

The Committee received a report from NHS representatives on the recommendation monitoring of the Access to Appropriate Services for People with Alcohol Problems scrutiny review.

(Take in report)

Members heard:

- That the main purpose of the report was to outline recent developments in providing access to services for those with alcohol problems in Hampshire since the last update to the Committee in 2010.
- That alcohol treatment for individuals can be ongoing over a period of many years, and is therefore often difficult to determine the success of individual treatment.
- That data reports from South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), acute hospitals in Hampshire and the Police provide an indication of the number of alcohol related injuries and crimes in Hampshire.
- That through education and social media advertising, people are encouraged to take ownership of their lifestyles, and make healthier choices, such as the current campaign 'Take a Break' to suggest abstention from alcohol for two days a week.
- That binge drinking is a continuing concern. Events such as University 'Fresher's Week' should be marketed differently to minimise the emphasis on alcohol related social activities and encourage healthier social events.
- That an example of good local practice has been the Safe Space project run by Portsmouth City Council in conjunction with street pastors and SCAS. Similar projects exist in Basingstoke. The Safe Space project provides a safe area to treat alcohol related minor injuries and to offer support on a Friday and Saturday

night. This has resulted in fewer A&E attendances and admissions.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the main five acute hospitals that serve Hampshire residents now provide Specialist Alcohol Nursing Liaison Services which has been achieved through joint working with the NHS and local authority colleagues.
- That security door staff for drinking establishments are trained through their organisations to be aware of alcohol related behaviour (e.g. in Rushmoor) and to alert relevant emergency services when required. The Local Authority can liaise with premises that do not serve alcohol responsibly, and has the power to revoke their alcohol license if the mitigating actions are not taken.
- That the Hampshire Operational Model for Effective Recovery (HOMER) service has enabled the implementation of a countywide accessible integrated recovery focused treatment system model for those with alcohol problems.
- That a new initiative has been launched with GP practices inviting residents between the ages of 40-75 to receive a free health check, which includes an assessment of alcohol intake. Patients presenting with a likely alcohol dependency can be referred by their GP to alcohol specialist treatment services.
- That an annual Public Health investment of £275,000 in Hampshire aids the ongoing work in alcohol prevention, as well as partnership working with Police, NHS and other organisations.

106. **ADULT SAFEGUARDING**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Adult Services on the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board Accountability Statement 2011/12.

(Take in report)

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the Panorama documentary which highlighted significant concerns about the treatment of vulnerable people in the private hospital Winterbourne View has resulted in a spotlight on adult safeguarding at a national level.
- That as a result of the Panorama documentary, awareness of issues relating to the provision of care of individuals in institutions has been raised and has resulted in an increased number of instances of 'whistleblowing'.
- That work has been ongoing with the two mental health providers in Hampshire to improve the reporting and recording of adult safeguarding.
- That a report entitled 'Reducing the risk of choking for people with a learning disability' has recently been

That the recent report on 'Reducing the risk of choking for people with a learning disability' is circulated to the Committee.

published and has been circulated to all providers. This review has identified recommendations for adoption to help prevent choking incidences in future. Data has shown that the number of choking incidences amongst people with learning disabilities already decreased. This risk area will continue to be monitored.

- That Hampshire has a large Nepalese community which can be hard to reach when educating individuals on, and encouraging reporting of, safeguarding incidences.

RESOLVED:

That the next adult safeguarding update is provided to the Committee in June 2013.

107. **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AND POLICY UPDATE**

The Chairman requested that, due to the overrunning of previous items, the 'Care and Support White Paper' item be heard at the next meeting of the Safe and Healthy People Select Committee. The Committee agreed to this request.

108. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the work programme (Item 9 in the minute book).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's work programme be approved subject to the issues raised at the meeting.

Chairman, 25 January 2013