

AT A MEETING of the SAFE AND HEALTHY PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Friday 25 November 2011.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Pat West

Vice-Chairman
p Councillor Roger Kimber

Councillors:

p Ann Buckley	p Mark Kemp-Gee
p Alan Dowden	p Pam Mutton
a Liz Fairhurst	p Eric Neal
p Jane Frankum	p Jackie Porter
p Michael Geddes	p David Simpson
p Andrew Joy	

Also in attendance Councillor Felicity Hindson, MBE, Executive Member for Adult Social Care, and a representative of the Hampshire LINK.

68. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Liz Fairhurst.

69. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Councillor David Simpson declared a personal, prejudicial interest in Item 7 – Adult Safeguarding, as he has been involved in safeguarding cases through his membership on Regulatory Committee B.

70. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Select Committee held 16 May 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

The 'central government round-up', which would include a briefing on the Health and Social Care Bill and transfer of public health responsibilities, was delayed owing to the Bill continuing to make its way through parliament.

The budget position of the Adult Services department had been regularly monitored by an informal sub-group of the membership, and the Committee would receive a fuller picture at the January 2012 meeting.

71. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

That the dates for the 2012/13 meetings of the Select Committee had been agreed and circulated.

That upcoming dates for visits to extra care facilities had been circulated.

72. **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

Last year the Select Committee held an extraordinary meeting in order to hear how effectively the range of statutory partners were working together to reduce crime and disorder, focusing on two priority areas (domestic violence and anti-social behaviour) set out in the development plan of the Hampshire County Strategy Group for Crime and Disorder.

The Committee requested that this meeting include the general progress of the County Strategy Group, the future role and impact of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as an overview of the Youth Offending Team service and Integrated Offender Management workstreams.

(Take in presentation)

Members heard:

- That funding reductions had been one of the main focuses for the county strategy group in the previous year, causing a review of the main priorities going into 2012/13.
- That learning had been shared and was on-going from the summer riots, particularly on what the successful actions were that prevented similar incidences occurring in Hampshire.
- That the County Strategy Group members are currently planning ahead for the election of the first Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as the inception of Police and Crime Panels. The Commissioner will be taking on responsibility in part for the funding of the priorities outlined by the Country Strategy Group, in place of the lead local authority. The election date for the Commissioner is currently 15 November 2012, with the following

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election due in May 2016.

- That partners were planning early engagement with the likely candidates for the Commissioner role in order for individuals to understand the current crime and disorder priorities for Hampshire. This is being co-ordinated across Hampshire and the two Unitary Councils.
- That the recommendations from last year's crime and disorder scrutiny meeting had coincided with the need to review the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in Hampshire. This piece of work was undertaken by an independent advisor, and had concluded in advice on actions and improvements to MARAC management as well as identifying issues around support services and some gaps in provision in certain areas. As the topic of domestic violence touches on so many arenas (health, housing, social care, education, probation, etc), a joint group had been established pan-Hampshire with a view to preparing a single commissioning strategy. The unitary partnerships had been invited to participate on this group..
- That the Wessex Youth Offending Team began with four local authority members, including the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire. The Isle of Wight disaggregated itself from the Team in early 2011, and the two Unitaries will no longer be members from April 2012. Although all four authorities will have separate youth offending teams from this time, there will still be areas of joint working and contracted services.
- That from April 2012 there will be a Hampshire Youth Offending Team, which will be divided into four divisional areas (north east, north west, south east and south west) based on the court catchment areas.
- That the overall trend shows a decrease in the number of young people entering the Youth Offending Team service for the first time, as well as a reduction in the number of cases heard in court. The only area seeing a slight increase is reoffending rates, which is reflected nationally.
- That the youth offending team supports common-sense policing – the new Triage process allows the Police to refer young people to the team for assessment/intervention following low level offending rather than them obtaining a criminal conviction.
- That the integrated offender management team provide an intensive case management approach with the aim to reduce re-offending rates.
- That the service identifies those offenders whose actions cause the greatest harm to society, seeking to understand why they offend in this way, and

offering solutions that reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

- That the team work pan-Hampshire, with a multi-agency approach.
- That the team have worked with approximately 373 offenders since its inception; planned performance is for approximately 600 per annum.
- That outcomes measured so far have shown that intensive supervision works, and re-offending rates have decreased.
- That approximately two thirds of the Integrated Offender Management programme budget will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner's fund in November 2012.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the disaggregation of the Wessex youth offending team has been due to withdrawals from other local authorities. It is thought that this has been due to these organisations wanting greater control over spend and resources, in line with the Localism Act.
- That there had been an increase in the number of triage cases experienced by the youth offending team, but the number of overall contacts had decreased,
- That the ages of children dealt with by the youth offending team range from 10 – 17.
- That the numbers of young people given custodial sentences has seen a decrease. Custodial sentences are generally only handed down if the crime committed has been of a serious and usually violent nature.
- That a lot of proactive work was undertaken to ensure that riots did not occur in Hampshire. The Youth Offending Team were heavily involved in this work.
- That the youth offending team work closely with child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), and several children serving custodial sentences in Hampshire are doing so in secure children's homes. Mental health is an important aspect of the work undertake by the Team.
- That young people and their parents/guardians are able to self refer to the Team, in order to request help if the young person is at risk of offending.
- That the Youth Offending Team have maintained a 'connexions' presence in Hampshire, as the importance of education, training and employment as a means to prevent offending is not underestimated.
- That youth unemployment is currently a national issue, and one being experienced locally by the Wessex Youth Offending Team. Therefore one of the

priorities for the Team is helping young persons to find permanent employment.

- That the current economic climate has resulted in the County Strategy Group not being able to fund further Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. It is hoped, however, that the new Police and Crime Commissioner will identify this as an area for spend when they take up office in November 2012.
- That the CrimeReports website is now up and running.

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee hold their next Crime and Disorder meeting in November 2012, where details of the new Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panels are heard.

73. **SUPPORTING PEOPLE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Adult Services on the Supporting People programme, and the timeline for review of the services provided to those with disabilities, older people and the socially excluded.

(Take in presentation)

Members heard:

- That Hampshire County Council leads on the supporting people programme, but work very much in partnership with the 11 Borough and District Councils. An example of this is the joint working of the six housing, care and support workers, who are based in Borough and District Councils, but employed by the County Council.
- That each Borough and District Council area has an 'inclusive forum', which provides an opportunity for service users to discuss local issues. The outcomes of these meetings feed into the main supporting people boards.
- That the first of the three supporting people reviews, concentrating on services for older people, is drawing to a conclusion. The next review to be undertaken is on social exclusion services.
- That the supporting people grant was historically ring-fenced, but has now been integrated into the formula grant. This means it has been subjected to the same 8% decreases in funding as experienced across the rest of local government.
- That the efficiency programme for supporting people services has largely concentrated on renegotiating hourly rates. Some of the savings from this work have been put aside for offsetting possible risks from overspend on older people's services.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That although the programme has a large number of individual services on its books (437), there is a rigorous web-based system in place to ensure that key performance indicators for each provider are regularly monitored. Having such a wide range of services enables the County Council to be locally responsive to needs, and to offer specialism where needed. However, the number of overall services commissioned have generally decreased over the eight years the supporting people programme has been in existence.
- That there are three local co-ordinators monitoring the key performance indicators and managing the supporting people contracts on behalf of adult services.
- That the three service reviews ongoing within the supporting people programme have focused on reducing cost through identifying hourly rate outliers and bringing them into line with the average. It is expected that the outcomes of the three reviews will make services more safe and sustainable, and quality should be maintained, and in some cases, improved.
- That reductions in housing benefits will result in less services users being able to move out of supported housing and into permanent residence. It is of concern that those aged under 35 will in future be expected to live with other people in order to claim housing benefit – this approach isn't suitable for some of the service users the supporting people programme comes into contact with.
- That the New Forest District Council has given notice that it will no longer be able to provide supporting people services at the expected hourly rate. Adult services are however confident that an alternative provider can be found to offer these services.

It was agreed that Members contact the Chairman with any requests for further information on the supporting people programme.

74. **ADULT SAFEGUARDING**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Adult Services detailing the biannual update on adult safeguarding.
(Take in report and presentation)

Members heard:

- That recent statements from central government have made clear that adult safeguarding responsibilities are to be retained within local authorities, and that adult safeguarding boards will become statutory. These statements will be formalised in a white paper, expected

That the next adult safeguarding update is provided to the Select Committee in May 2012.

to be published in late 2011/early 2012.

- That Hampshire County Council's scrutiny of the activities of the Adult Safeguarding Board is carried out by the Executive Member for Adult Services, with additional scrutiny from the Safe and Healthy People Select Committee.
- That there may be a possibility of the adult safeguarding board being chaired in future by an independent member. This notion is currently being explored.
- That it is not yet known what role the Health and Wellbeing Board will have in relation to adult safeguarding.
- That for the 2010/11 municipal year the adult safeguarding board had published an 'Annual Accountability Statement' rather than an in-depth report. This highlighted that the number of adult safeguarding cases had continued to increase, following a trend seen nationally.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the majority of adult safeguarding referrals are received from social care staff and health workers but that referrals from the public are increasing due to raised awareness. However, referrals can come from any source, including the individual themselves.
- That work is being explored with service users to consider how to best support them to keep safe when using public transport. This work has been supported by the outcomes of a recent service user forum workshop, where public transport services were highlighted as a location where individuals have been subject to abuse.
- That funding has been identified to support the roll-out of the Basingstoke 'safe place' pilot.

RESOLVED:

That the next adult safeguarding update is provided to the Select Committee in May 2012.

75. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the work programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

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

Chairman, 16 January 2012

