

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

21ST JULY 2014 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Hinkley (Chair), Councillors Garrett, Hanif (sub for O'Callaghan), Lewis (sub for Gale), Moles, Rivers and Roden, Mr B. O'Byrne (Diocesan Representative), R Nazar (Parent Governor) and M. Malik (Parent Governor)

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Gale substituted by Councillor Lewis and Councillor O'Callaghan substituted by Councillor Hanif.

31. MINUTES (REF: 2)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2014 be taken as a correct and accurate record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

32. CHAIRS UPDATE (REF: 3)

None noted.

33. QUARTER 4 2013-14 PERFORMANCE REPORT (REF: 7)

The Head of Policy & Performance, Nicola Perry and the Systems Support Officer, Israr Siddique presented the report (Ref: 7) which requested the Board to comment on any issues it wished to refer back to the Executive at its meeting on 30th July 2014.

The following questions/comments were made:

Performance Indicator	Question/Comment	Answer
Former NI156 (MD) – number of households living in temporary accommodation	Temporary accommodation numbers show a rise at the end of March. Is this because of the Welfare Reforms and people being re-housed to Luton	This is a national problem. In Luton housing is an area where a huge amount of pressure is being felt due to the lack of land value; excessive demands from London Boroughs and the Governments right to buy schemes have all put pressure on Luton's housing stock.

	from London Boroughs?	
	Has the benefit cap lead to more people from London moving to Luton?	There has been an impact from the benefit cap. However, the Council moved 35 people out of Borough as a result of the welfare reforms.
	Has immigration been a factor and lead to an increase in applications for council housing?	There is no information to suggest immigration is a factor. But is an area which can be looked into.
Former NI 59 Percentage of initial assessments (Children) within 10 working days of referral	Can you explain why assessment numbers are increasing?	<p>The increase is due to the move to single assessments which was implemented in February this year; and the service area is experiencing pressures in recruiting social workers. A strategy is now in place which should alleviate these pressures. Another factor was the delayed transfer of care which is not an LBC issue but is now being addressed.</p> <p>The Quarter 1 performance 2014/15 data which is to be presented at the next meeting should show an improvement.</p>
ASCOF 2C PART1 ALL (former NI 131) Delayed transfer of care from hospital and those which are attributed to adult social care per 100,000 population - general	Is there a communication problem?	Work is on-going around integration following the 'Discharge from Hospital' scrutiny task and finish group which made a lot of recommendations that are being monitored by the Health and Social Care Review Group.
Local drug 1 Number of adults successfully completing intervention	How are these targets being met?	Work around drug services to ensure they provide support and users receive the appropriate treatment is being developed.
Former NI 123 Stop smoking (number of		The figures are provisional and will be confirmed and published in August. The number of people quitting

quits and rate per 100,000 population)		smoking is reported throughout the year. Historically, the numbers of quitters had increased in certain quarters. Nationally there had been a drop in people accessing stop smoking services, which is due to a number of reasons.
Former NI157a Major planning applications dealt with within 13 weeks	Can you explain why performance has dropped? Is the drop in performance due to the changes in Planning law? Are the targets set by the service?	This is largely due to major planning applications such as Butterfield, Junction 10a, and the Airport runway expansion which are complex applications. The indicator would be reviewed again at the end of Quarter 1 performance for 2014/15 to see if any improvement has been made. I am unable to say and was referring to the planning system used to capture performance. Some targets are national and others are set by the service. Will provide a note back to members on the targets set by the service.

Councillor Roden enquired what work was being carried out to reduce the troubled families figures.

In response the Head of Policy and Performance agreed to look into and to circulate a response to Board members.

Councillor Rivers commented on the risk assessment for the volume of airport traffic or closures resulting in reduction of key income stream and enquired why the current risk was so high.

In response the Head of Policy and Performance agreed to look into and circulate a response to back to members.

The Head of Policy & Performance briefly summarised the new format for reporting performance data. She advised the quarter 1 performance 2014-15 would be reported to the August Board meeting. The new format would focus on the impact of the Council's prospectus. The data would be benchmarked against the rest of the year and be easier for members to hold to account; and for members of the public to discover what the council has to grapple with. The data would continue to be reported on a quarterly basis.

Resolved: (i) That the Board notes the report (Ref: 7).

(ii) That Officers provide a note back to Members on the following areas:

- The work carried out to reduce the troubled families figures
- The risk assessment on the high volume of airport traffic or closure resulting in reduction of key income stream
- The Service targets set in for major planning indicators (former NI 157a)

34. DAY AND RESPITE SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (REF 8)

A joint powerpoint presentation by, Harminder Patel, Operations Manager Assessment and Care Planning, Tracey Brennan, Commissioning Manager, and Abu Nasir, Senior Projects Manager, which sets out the latest proposals for the development of a community based model for day services for adults with learning disabilities.

The Board was asked to note the report and approve the recommendations for the Executive on 30th July 2014.

The Operations Manager Assessment and Care Planning advised that approval was received by the Executive to move to a community based model from a building-based model, and to develop a full business case in March 2013.

The key drivers for the project were:

- The growth in numbers of people who will require a day care service and/or respite provision in the future
- The Bramingham Day Centre is at full capacity and located in a building that is in need of significant repairs and refurbishment
- The Government's '*valuing people now*' programme which details the need for people with learning disability to be integrated into the community.

The Officer advised the proposed new building would be a day care facility located on the Hitchin Road and consultation with carers and customers had taken place.

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Moles enquired where on Hitchin Road the building would be located.

The Officer replied the building would be on the Stopsley Day Centre site in Hitchin Road and be large enough to accommodate current and future needs. Consultation had taken place on the designs which are of the highest specification. The new build would accommodate six respite rooms up and downstairs, and be built to eco standards with the large rooms having en-suite bathroom facilities. Provisions for carers to stay overnight would also be included. The planning application is ready for considerations once approval from the Executive had been obtained.

A supplementary question from Councillor Moles enquired about access to the building and the travelling of heavy goods vehicles along the Hitchin Road.

The Officer replied there disruption would be kept to the minimum along the Hitchin Road.

The total cost of the new build would be in the region of 5 million pounds. There is currently £500,000 of capital contingency available should quotes exceed the estimated costs, which would reduce to £370,000 if Tomlinson Avenue is retained.

Councillor Hinkley enquired whether funding for the new build was dependent upon the sale of the Bramingham building. And how long before tenders were received; and what would happen if the housing department needed the building for social housing.

The Officer replied social housing was a key issue in Luton but was confident a sale could be obtained for the building.

Councillor Hinkley suggested confirmation should be sought that no one would be moved out the Bramingham Centre until proper accommodation was available.

The Officer confirmed that would be the case and the core base group would be placed with people they were familiar with.

A further supplementary question from Councillor Hinkley enquired whether the TOKKO building had been considered.

The Officer replied the TOKKO building was looked at but was not suitable for a permanent base for their users.

Councillor Roden enquired whether the costing options were different for A & B. For example, Hockwell Ring was a small cost but if people were being moved out would there be a cost to the council.

The Officer replied that the costs represent what it would be for their customers.

Councillor Rivers commented that consultation should continue throughout the process.

The Officer replied that all sub groups would be fully consulted.

Resolved: That the Boards notes the report (Ref 8) and the following recommendations to the Executive on 30th July, 2014:

- Approval to proceed with the new service model
- Approval to negotiate and agree community locations
- Approval to tender for new build elements of project

- Agree to proceed with market testing for suitable provider for Respite unit
- Approval on capital cost envelope

35. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY CONSULTATION (REF 9)

Mike McMahon, Head of Housing and Community Living, and Councillor A. Khan, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, presented the report which sets out the findings from the consultation on Luton's Playing Pitch Strategy.

The Head of Service advised the outcomes would be reported back to the Executive at their August meeting.

The following questions/comments were made:

Councillor Hinkley commented on the small response to the consultation which amounted to 10 responses.

The Head of Service replied the document was produced in a collaborative way engaging with organisations involved in sports and the community in Luton and Bedfordshire. Responses were in the main from representative organisations, and had been promoted by the local media and local radio to raise awareness.

Councillor Hinkley further enquired whether the consultation period was sufficient.

The Head of Service replied yes, and extending the time period would not always bring more responses.

Councillor Moles reiterated her disappointment of the low response rate and lack of interest from the community.

The Portfolio Holder responded that public consultation responses were low but the take up of sports in the town were much higher.

Councillor Hinkley commented that the report referred too many bowling pitches in the town were underused, but no responses from bowling clubs or users were received.

The Head of Service replied that a change provision would require consultation with users and clubs.

Councillor Moles commented on the shortage of football pitches and that some pitches were closed.

Barry Timms, Parks and Cemetery Manager replied that the demand for football pitches was declining and artificial pitches were more popular especially with the younger generation.

Councillor T. Malik commented on lack of cricket pitches and enquired whether more would be provided.

The Head of Service replied cricket requires a lot of space. Schools playing had been looked at increase but there was not a lot of unused green space in Luton to meet the demand.

Councillor Hinkley commented that only 6 schools had responded to the consultation which showed little interest.

The Head of Service replied that on-going work was being carried out with schools to get sign up and were in the process through collaborative working with schools to make their playing pitches more accessible for community use.

Councillor Roden enquired whether building schools for the future programme was a problem.

The Head of Service replied that part of that programme was to roll out the use of pitches in schools and on-going discussions were taking place with children and learning in the autumn.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref 9) be noted.

(ii) That the Board thanks all those involved in the work of producing the strategy but were disappointment at the low response received for the consultation be relayed back to the Executive.

(iii) That the Officer be requested to bring back a progress report on the delivery plan in a year's time.

36. TRACKING THE STREET TRADE – PROGRESS UPDATE (REF 10)

The Board received a joint powerpoint presentation from Laura Church, Head of Business and Consumer Services, and Gerry Taylor, Director of Public Health.

The Head of Service advised the Board that a strategy for the whole of Luton had been reported to the Board at a previous meeting, which sets out a five year goal to eradicate the sex trade from Luton.

She further advised in the last year the highest proportion of anti-social behaviour reports were in the High Town area which relate to prostitution (50%). The number of arrests for kerb crawling offences had followed a downward trend. Since the start of 2014, patrol levels reduced slightly in order to allow officers to work on other strands of the issue as well as a result of resourcing issues. Levels of offences have started to increase slightly, and the issue remains a concern for residents and previous levels of fortnightly policing would now be resumed.

Current indications reveal:

- All those currently identified as engaged in selling sex 'on street' in Luton are women over the age of 21
- The vast majority of those have drug and/ or alcohol misuse problems and a history of abuse and/ or emotional trauma
- Between April 2013 and March 2014, 20 women have exited the on street sex trade

Kerb crawling offenders

- The majority are cautioned
- Seven repeat offenders
- Four of these received a caution
- The other three were fined £155, £323 and £595

Most people who committed a kerb crawling offence receive a caution for a first offence. Since January 2013 there have been 7 repeat offenders.

The next step

- Regular community meetings to be held with public health, the police and the portfolio holder in attendance to discuss issues
- A mini newsletter to be produced with a letter going out to all those who attended the community meeting.
- Currently looking at tracking pimps and those selling drugs and working with the Police with work on organised crime
- Supporting women leaving the sex trade with housing in a residential unit, which can mean being placed out of Luton.
- Looking at other alternative ways to reinforce messages of going into Prostitution in the area.

The following questions/comments were made:

Question/Comments	response
Is there any evidence of the problem moving into other areas in the Town?	The evidence shows the problem is on the edge of high town which is now under control.
Why have repeat offenders been given cautions and not being issued with a fine?	Not sure would need to consult with the Police.
Are we seeing women coming in from outside Luton?	There is no evidence that women are coming in from the outside. There is still concern about low reporting which needs to be reported using the 101 number.
Have you ever thought of using helicopters in High Town?	No, but that would need resources. But number plate recognition for kerb crawlers is being looked at.
Have you looked at naming and shaming pimps?	This has not been looked at. Discussions have taken place about naming and shaming kerb crawlers but that would have an impact on families and children in cases where people have received fines.
20 women have left the sex trade. Are they being monitored?	Yes, there are monitored by the offender management system. Some women stay in the area whilst others move to other areas in Luton.
What is happening with the off street trade and younger women being encouraged into drugs.	This work had not been picked up in Luton. It is a national problem in respect of child exportations. We need to be aware of this but it is not something that has been identified.
Is there an alternative way of reporting other than using the 101 number?	The crimestoppers numbers can be used for reporting which is fed through to the Police. It is more effective for people to use the Police call centre which is manned 24 hours a day. The Council does not have the capacity or the resources to take calls outside core hours.

Resolved: (i) That Officers be thanked for the presentation.

(ii) That Officers be requested to report back in a year's time.

37. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD (OSB) WORK PROGRAMME AND EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN (REF: 11)

Members received the overview and scrutiny work programme and the executive forward plan to inform the work of the Board.

Resolved: That the Democracy and Scrutiny Officer be delegated the responsibility to update the work programme as follows;

OSB meeting on 27th August 2014

- (1) Quarter 1 Performance Report 2014/15 – Nicola Perry/Israr Siddique

OSB meeting on 14th October 2014

- (1) Housing Control Review - Progress Update
- (2) Allocations Review - Progress Update
- (3) Sheltered Housing Control Review - Progress Update
- (4) Community Offer Review

OSB meeting on 25th November 2014

- (1) Amended Housing Strategy – Due to go to Executive on 15th December 2014
- (2) Bus Way Update and Financial Update – Previously requested.

Note: The meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.