

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships

Date: 26 July 2017

Time: 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Rahman (Chair), J Clarke, J Cleverly, D Davies, R Hayat, M Linton, S Marshall, R Mogford and T Suller

In Attendance: R Cornwall (Head of People and Business Change), K Duffin (Head of Regeneration Investment and Housing), W Beer (Public Health Wales), Chief Inspector D Morgan (Gwent Police) Inspector R Jenkins (Gwent Police), V Self (Service Manager), S Calnon (Youth Service Manager), E Mulligan (Chief Democratic Services Officer, M Lawrence (Overview and Scrutiny Officer), N Barnett (Democratic Services Support Officer)

Apologies: None

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

2 **Public Services Board - Single Integrated Plan (SIP) Annual Report**

The Head of People and Business Change introduced the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) and the Theme leads to Members. The Committee were advised that each of the three SIP themes had previously been presented to the most relevant Scrutiny Committee, however since this Committee had been established for the purpose of meeting the statutory requirement to scrutinise the work of the whole Public Service Board (PSB) Partnership, the complete SIP was being presented to this Committee for consideration.

The theme lead from Public Health Wales presented the Health and Well-being theme to the Committee. Discussions included the following:

Food & Nutrition

- Progress had been made in promoting physical activity and trying to promote healthy nutrition in early years. Schools have been encouraging children to walk to school with the 'Mile a Day' campaign. This scheme would also impact on school run traffic congestion, to reduce the numbers of cars traveling to school.
- With regard to the new pilot scheme starting in September, where school nurses would record height and weight of children, and inform parents if their child is in a dangerous weight range. Members voiced concerns that this may lead to a backlash from parents

and asked if school nurses were being prepared for this. Members were assured that nurses had been trained in how to approach this with parents and that consideration had been given to the wording used in letters to parents, learning from the backlash against Public Health England when this initiative was launched there last year.

- The Committee queried whether the funding for breakfast, dinner time and after school clubs would cease when the Communities First funding ended, and were advised the impact of the ending of this funding would be considered by the PSB in September.

Smoking

- The Committee were advised that the smoking rate in Newport was in line with the Welsh average, although not yet meeting the UK average. Members discussed the Just B programme aimed at reducing smoking related inequalities in health using strong peer networks to promote positive messages. NHS Stop Smoking services are being promoted and services being offered to help people to quit, and work being done with ASH Wales to stop smoking in school gates.
- The use of electronic cigarettes was discussed and the extent to which their use led to smoking tobacco. There were currently no targets relating to electronic cigarettes and it is not recommended as a substitute to pregnant smokers, as not enough was known about the effects, instead steering people towards supported smoking cessation programmes in place.
- Concern was raised about the impact of smoking shisha with no filter other than water and the impact of the substances upon young people and possible future addiction. It was asked if this could be looked into further in terms of future addiction. Committee were advised that currently there was no prevention work currently, but advised there is a group named Minority Ethnic Community Health Association for Newport: Initiating Change (MECHANIC) who have had conversations regarding providing support. The Health & Wellbeing Lead agreed this is something to look into and report findings back.

Mental Well-being

- Concern was expressed at the increase of mental health issues for young people, and a Member questioned whether there were any distinguishable differences with planning for adult mental health. The Lead advised that most mental health issues are laid down in childhood and support needs to be available earlier. A meeting had been held with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and now Youth Workers, School Nurses and GPs can make referrals to multi agency panels. He concluded that the support available needs to be coordinated to provide effective support.
- The Committee queried whether Autistic Spectrum Disorder was included in the above mentioned coordinated support arrangements, as there was still a stigma associated with this. Members suggested this was something that could be addressed in schools.

Alcohol and Drug Misuse

- It was noted that whilst there was a reduction of the use of alcohol amongst young people, however, concerns were raised regarding the increase of solvent abuse amongst young people. The Committee were advised that Newport LIVE were running diversionary activities to help educate young people and that the PSB was looking at ways deal with preventative issues upstream.
- It was advised that there has been a data sharing agreement with the Licensing department across Gwent to target enforcement on problem premises which are selling cheap alcohol.

Economy and Skills

The Head of Regeneration Investment and Housing introduced the Economy and Skills theme to the Committee, The Committee were advised of the key highlights for the year such as the City Deal for the Cardiff City Region, meetings with Virgin to extend the digital connectivity in the City, and the £14 million Vibrant and Viable Places development. The Committee were also advised that perceptions of people living in Newport had improved, rising from 24% last year to 70% this year.

The Newport Station footbridge work had been delayed due to lack of funding, although the Council were working close with Network Rail to restart the works.

The following was discussed:

- The Committee queried news story that all new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2040 will be abolished. Committee were advised that an Energy Manager has recently been appointed, and will be writing a strategy and implementing plan for Newport. It was also advised that there would be electric points at Civic Centre.
- A Member proposed that due to the imminent removal of the Severn Crossing tollgate barrier, there would be greater opportunity to work with Bristol. Members were advised that Great Western Cities was a great opportunity to work together and full advantage of the opportunity needs to be taken.
- Members praised the positive improvement in the City Centre including Friars Walk and new developments, but were concerned about homelessness in the city centre and enquired if it is a Council or Police issue. Members were advised that both need to work together to tackle the issue and that consideration was being given to applying for Purple Flag accreditation for the City Centre. A Homelessness Working Group has been set up and the Wallich were looking at funding and Health had set up additional services for Homeless people. Homelessness is a multi-agency issue and the answer is for all partners to work together on solutions.
- The Committee queried zero contract hours, and advised the vulnerable need help to get qualifications. The Committee were told that we want to help every young person possible. A contract has been signed with I-Tech to provided services for young people that are unique to any Council in Wales. All services working together have been reduced over the last four years.

- Concerns were raised about the accessibility issues with the Convention Centre. It was advised that key part is to connect the benefits from the Convention Centre with local communities. There was a need to make certain that local businesses are going to gain from the opportunity. Also advised that studies are being taken from Planning permission, some impact is expected but nothing significant. In relation to the community benefits of the new convention centre, it was asked if Celtic Manor could be invited discuss this with the Committee, particularly in relation to what this will bring to the community
- EU programmes were discussed and the Committee were advised that the funding was available until 2020, and there would be challenges to replace these when funding ends.
- Safety protocols on WIFI usage was queried in relation to cyber bullying and excesses. The Committee were advised that the public WIFI across the city has been a great success. It was open access but secure. Individual's ability to manage their data was a different issue however an authority we were safe. It was agreed that more needs to be done, and there was a suggestion to have a safety disclaimer link before using the WIFI, but did advise that work has been done in schools to make children safe.
- The Committee were advised that there would be a number of public sector apprenticeships across all partners. A Member mentioned that the free training offered by Trade Unions could be utilised as part of skills training. The Committee were advised that the Council are looking to work with any partner willing to work on this.
- It was asked if there are age limits on older people for apprenticeships. The Committee were advised that Government are only funding up to aged 24. The Committee also queried about City and Guilds training at Gwent colleges, stating qualification is not recognised and cannot take it onto site without a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card. The Committee was advised that this could be explored with Coleg Gwent who were a partner on the Public Service Board.
- The Workplace Academy was discussed and it was explained that the process was centralised and the Department for Work and Pensions also have a database of those who are looking for work. At the jobs fair for the Convention Centre everyone on the database got contacted and that 80 of those people got a job.

Safe and Cohesive communities

Chief Inspector David Morgan was introduced and presented the portfolio to the committee. The main highlights were the PSPO and praised the positive work from both Gwent Police and the Pill community.

The following comments and queries were discussed:

- The Committee were advised that hate crime figures in the report do not differentiate between the figures for LGBT, BME and Transgender. The Chief Inspector advised that hate crime has moved significantly in the last two years, and although we do not have a Newport Pride Event, it could be organised fairly easily. Any hate crimes were flagged up

immediately in the morning meetings and the Committee were also told that the Rainbow group are linked to the PSB.

- The Committee were pleased to see the link between shoplifting and drug dealing being made. Comment was made that food was most stole item, and were told that shops have encouraged to take more responsibility in providing CCTV evidence and writing reports to the Police due to it taking up a lot of resources.
- It was asked what kind of engagement could assist in building a rapport with young people, and that some youths congregate outside shops such as McDonalds to use the Wifi, which can intimidate people. The Committee were advised that specialist youth workers are working with young people in this area and that discussions had taken place with local businesses regarding free WiFi but they had refused to turn off the Wifi due to their customer usage.
- Query was made about reoffending and whether youth workers ask young people what help they need. It was advised that child's upbringing is looked at, and is subject to a mutli-agency approach and involving Social Workers, Police and probation. This had resulted in the reoffending rates having dropped substantially. It was also advised that Police and Fire Brigade make visits to schools.
- The Committee commented on city wide problem with off road bikers, used to use land at the SDR but now have nowhere to ride. Members asked if there was any land that bikers could use. The Police advised that the issue with purchasing land to create a track is the ongoing management of that land, and the associated Public Liability Insurance.
- The Committee also raised the issue of public noise nuisance and drug running. It was advised that this will be looked into and which agencies were able to contribute to help solve this.
- The recent incident at a mosque in London was mentioned and raised concerns of something similar happening in Newport. It was advised that there was more of an issue with right wing extremism than Islamic. The Police advised that inter-faith groups have been created and that the Police had visited and reviewed the security in every mosque in the city. It was agreed that the PREVENT agenda also tackles right wing extremism. The Police also advised that all Police probationers receive race awareness training in a mosque. The PREVENT training pack was offered to the Committee.
- It was advised that engagement from the public had increased to thousands on a regular basis. Link in information report was offered to be emailed to committee to access.

Resolutions and Actions:

The Committee agreed to receive the update on the Single Integrated Plan and note the progress being made by the Public Services Board. The questions raised and comments made by the Committee would be forwarded to the PSB.

The Committee agreed to nominate the Chair of the Committee to attend and observe the Public Services Board meetings on behalf of the Committee.

3 **Public Services Board - Local Well-being Assessment (Community Well-being Profiles)**

The Chief Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that the Public Services Board were required to send a copy of the published Local Well-being Assessment to this Scrutiny Committee and indicated the link the report for Members information.

Resolutions and Actions:

The Committee received the Local Well-being Assessment.

4 **Annual Forward Work Programme**

The Chief Democratic Services Officer presented the Forward Work Programme to the Committee. In answer to a query about when the Briefing Sessions were to be programmed, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that meeting the new statutory requirement to scrutinise the Public Service Board was the priority of the Committee's focus, before scrutinising other partnership working and advised that briefings upon the Shared Resource Services and the Education Achievement Services would be scheduled first for this Autumn / Winter, with briefings upon Norse and Newport LIVE to be scheduled for later the following year.

Resolutions and Actions:

The Committee:

- i. Approved its Annual Work Programme for 2017/18;
- ii. Approved the schedule of meetings for 2017/18;
- iii. Agreed to a start time of 5pm for its meetings, with a Committee only pre meeting at 4:30pm;
- iv. Requested that background reading links for papers are included for reference where possible in reports to the Committee.

The meeting concluded at 19:05.