

Minutes



Performance Board

Date: 23 March 2015

Time: 2.00 pm

Present: Councillors R Bright (Chair), D Davies and R Truman

In Attendance: Councillors J Richards and D Wilcox

1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations at this stage

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2014 were confirmed as a true record.

4 Improvement Plan 14/15 Children and Family Services

Board members were informed that as at Q3, Improving Outcomes for Looked after Children is assessed as 'Good' and Improving Outcomes for Youth Justice is assessed as 'Acceptable'

Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children

Updates on this objective were provided. In particular members were updated on progress on;

- Support the Children in Care Council to represent looked after children and better hold services to account: It was reported that progress was being made to moving to a One Newport Children's Group.
- Increase the Work Based Learning Programme for looked after children within Newport City Council and look at apprenticeship opportunities: It was reported that Corporate Parenting forum looking at improving the learning program opportunities for looked after children. The apprenticeship situation has not yet progressed but this will be addressed via the new updated Corporate Parenting Strategy for 2015 onwards.
- Increase the placement options for looked after children and young people and better prepare them for independence: It was reported that Work is planned to implement the When I Am Ready scheme. We have a draft policy in place and we will work with

carers who are able and willing to offer this option to allow young people to remain in foster care post 18.

- Look at options for on-going tenancy support : It was reported that These services will continue to be offered to young people. We will continue to look for other housing options.
- Number of young people on work based learning programme at Newport City Council was showing as green
- Percentage of Personal Education Plans in place within 20 days of starting school was on amber
- Stability of placements was on amber
- Care leavers who are in suitable accommodation was on amber. It was explained however that this comprised a group of 3 or 4 individuals and if one is taken into custody, this is not considered to be suitable. This has a significant impact on the target
- Care leavers who are in Education, Training or Employment was showing green.

Board Members were concerned that in areas of provision where the service – user cohort is small or where there are mitigating factors, such as health issues, this needs to be reflected in reports. Contact should be made with Welsh Government to seek a fairer system based on averages across social groups and organisations.

Agreed

- I. To ensure that in all service areas where the service – user cohort is small or where there are mitigating factors, such as health issues, this needs to be reflected in performance reports.
- II. To keep progress under review

Improving Outcomes for Youth Justice

In May/June 2014 the Youth Offending Service was subject of a full joint Inspection undertaken by colleagues from Criminal Justice, Social care, health and learning and skills inspectorates.

Within the subsequent Inspection report published in September 2014 the Service was assessed as delivering poor and unsatisfactory performance in relation to several key areas of work and twelve recommendations were made for the YOS to improve its work. Much of the focus and effort of the latter part of the year focussed on developing, and implementing a robust Improvement plan to address the deficiencies highlighted.

The YOS had reviewed, revised and updated many aspects of its operation, and with the increased governance and scrutiny by the Management Board and active involvement of partners, is ensuring the direction of travel for the year to come results in significantly better performance and outcomes for service users and thus for performance against the statutory aim. Much remained to be done

The Cabinet Member for Education and Young People had been fully apprised with the situation and was meeting regularly to facilitate dialogue and provide support.

Agreed

To keep the situation under review and monitored to resolve issues within 6 months when the next inspection will be carried out

5 **2014/5 Progress: Regeneration Investment & Housing**

Board members were informed that as at Q3, City Regeneration and Development is assessed as 'Good' and City Centre evening and night time economy, a safer place assessed as 'Acceptable'

City Regeneration and Development

Updates on this objective were provided. In particular members were updated on progress on;

- **Vibrant & Viable Places Year 1:** It was reported that commencement of a number of large-scale projects, including the renovation of the King's Hotel, the conversion of the former Yates wine lodge into a new Premier Inn, and work on refurbished commercial and residential space on southern Commercial Street and Cardiff Road. Planning applications submitted on a number of Year II schemes.
- **Business Improvement District: It was reported that** Preparations will be made by the BID steering group for the launch in April 2015. A number of working groups will be set up to examine a number of actions within the city centre.
- **Regeneration Strategy and redesigning of new Regeneration Team model:** A timetable has been agreed. Scrutiny will be updated prior to submission to cabinet and Council
- **To continue to secure external funding for Regeneration programmes:** Bids submitted were reported. Further funding applications will be progressed including further EU funds
- **Completion of Pill Framework:** Physical Improvement works will be completed with a project closedown period up to the end of June 2015.
- **Business Support:** Progress was reported. Business advice and company visits will continue through this quarter. The business rates relief scheme within the BID area will be implemented.
- **Work Based Learning Academy (WBLA) / Skills:** Any decision will be added into council standing orders and the VVP project. Work will continue with poverty projects such as Work & Skills, C1st, FF, and flying start to ensure the most vulnerable people are benefitting.
- **Continue to develop new and innovative large scale energy improvement work with energy companies and Welsh Government:** Changes to Government eco-funding have meant that fewer schemes have been progressed than expected. Other projects were being investigated
- Provision of coherent business support was on green
- Number of people engaged in employment programmes was reported red
- Number of people supported into employment was on green
- Number of homes benefitting from improved domestic energy performance measures was reported amber but as the definition had changed this could be shown as green

There is a need to concentrate on empty shop units in Commercial Street as the regeneration programme develops. It was suggested that sources of funding should be sought to provide a scheme to ensure the shops are in use and attractive. It is important that shops in other parts of the city centre are not left empty as Friar's Walk progresses. It was explained that the Council had no funds available for this type of project.

Members also referred to the possibility of discussing with neighbours the possibility of the establishment of an energy company or further opportunities in relation to energy

Agreed:

- I. Owing to the change in definition to change the report to reflect the energy performance measure as green
- II. To investigate funding sources and opportunities sought to provide a scheme to ensure the shops in Commercial Street are in use and attractive to potential tenants
- III. To discussing with neighbours the possibility of the establishment of an energy company or further opportunities in relation to energy
- IV. To keep all measures under review for future report

City Centre evening and night time economy a safer place

Updates on this objective were provided. In particular members were updated on progress on:

- **Identify reasons for current perceptions of the city centre from the day to night transition and engage stakeholders in helping to identify the solutions:** A resident and business survey is proposed. This information will still be of use to the Council even though this Improvement Plan objective is no longer continuing into 2015/16.
- **Develop a vision for the city centre's early evening and night-time economy:** A multi-disciplinary group has been established to set out the vision and scope for the strategic management of the City Centre. Work is progressing on a Parking Strategy for the City Centre.
- **Undertake a gap analysis, self-assessment against good practice standards:** An initial gap analysis was undertaken by Public Protection officers and Police Officers and the findings discussed at the strategic City Centre Management group. Public Protection, Street Scene, Leisure will examine opportunities for "quick wins" such as lighting, licensing of open spaces, planning a calendar of all year round (community) events in the city centre to increase foot fall.
- **Use planning policies to enable the residential conversion of vacant upper floors above shops and to free-up restrictions on vacant shops:** The Local Development Plan has been adopted by Council. Work is on-going on a Local Development Order (LDO) for the City Centre with the aim that this is in place in June 2015, subject to public consultation. VVP planning applications were on track to be approved by year end. A number of residential units in the City Centre have been

approved in Q3, including approval of 30 units in the Kings Head Hotel. There are on-going negotiations for another large scheme at Stow Hill.

- **Carry out effective licencing and enforcement:** To date, 7 night time joint operations with the Police have been undertaken. Further joint operations and enforcement work are programmed.
- The number of night time safer city operations undertaken jointly with the Police was on green
- Percentage of city centre premises inspected for compliance with licensing laws was reported amber after missing narrowly the target. This would improve
- Number of residential units granted planning permission within city centre was reported red. There has been a significant delay (7 months) in receiving amended plans for one project, following a meeting with the architect in May 2015. This project would provide 40 city centre residential units, making a significant contribution towards the PI target. Other schemes are progressing well
- Number of vacant shops was on amber after a small rise
- Percentage of late night premises that are broadly compliant for food safety was on green at 79%
- Percentage of people who feel fairly safe or very safe in the city centre (during the early evening and) at night was on amber after a small fall. . There have been two surveys carried out to date with results collated, both of which had a very similar outcome (25% feel fairly safe or very safe). A third survey has recently been issued and the results are awaited

Members considered the report and, in terms of the night – time economy, considered that discussions should be held about potential solutions through Licensing and that the outcome of discussions reported to the Licensing Committee

Agreed:

- I. To ask officers to discuss with relevant stakeholders issues around the night time economy and whether and solutions can be found through Licensing
- II. To keep all measures under review for future report

6 Draft Improvement Plan 2015- 2016

Members were informed that the Improvement Plan 2015/16 identifies eight Improvement Objectives in which the council will seek to demonstrate measurable improvement. The plan is produced annually, as soon as is reasonably practicable at the beginning of the financial year.

The eight Improvement Objectives (which relate directly to the priorities of the Corporate Plan) were selected by Cabinet in January 2015 after consideration of consultation responses.

Scrutiny meetings were held in February to enable members' to input into the Improvement Plan 15/16. Feedback from Scrutiny Committee meetings were provided in detail to the Board

The eight Improvement Objectives 2014/15 are linked according to the themes of

- A caring City
- A Learning & Working City
- A Greener and Healthier City
- A Safer City

The Improvement Plan builds upon the council's Corporate Plan and the Local Service Board's Single Integrated Plan, and is informed by stakeholder consultation and engagement, Member involvement and feedback from regulators.

Agreed

To recommend to Cabinet that it

- I. Endorses the eight Improvement Objectives included in the Improvement Plan for 14/15
- II. Agrees the Improvement Plan work programme
- III. Agrees the monitoring framework