

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Finlayson (Vice Chair), Dr Davison, Ms Ellis-Williams, Mrs McKerrell, McNulty, Tarbitt and Whalen.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor J Mallinson – Leader
Councillor Ellis – Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Mallinson – Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Health and Wellbeing Manager
Healthy City Team Manager
Contracts and Communities Officer
Policy and Communications Manager
Partnership Manager
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

HWSP.17/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Paton.

HWSP.18/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of registrable interests were submitted in respect of agenda item A.2 Community Centres Update:

Councillor Dr Davison was a City Council representative on the Belah Community Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams was a City Council representative on the Harraby Community Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Mrs McKerrell was the Treasurer and Caretaker of Dalston Recreation Centre.

Councillor Tarbitt was a Trustee of Longtown Community Centre.

Councillor Miss Whalen was a City Council representative on the Yewdale Community Centre Management Committee.

HWSP.19/21 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - It was agreed that the items of business within Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

HWSP.20/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – The minutes of the previous meetings held on 14 January and 28 January (Special) were agreed as a correct record.

HWSP.21/21 COMMUNITY CENTRES UPDATE

The Health and Wellbeing Manager submitted report CS.12/21 which updated the Panel on: the Council's financial and support for Community Centres; the health and wellbeing benefits provided by the Community Centres; and, their response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Had any of the Community Centres experienced financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager advised that the Council's regular financial support had continued during the pandemic and that no request for further financial assistance had been received. The Health and Wellbeing Manager also noted that various support packages offered by central government were available to the Centres depending on their situation.

The Deputy Chief Executive noted that Council had, at its meeting of 17 February 2021, agreed its Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan thereby providing assurance on the levels of funding to be provided to the Centres. Moreover, all the Community Centres that had formerly been owned by the Council had long term leases which afforded the respective Trusts some certainty.

- Did the Council work with the Carlisle and District Federation of Community Organisations ("Federation") to support Community Centres?

The Health and Wellbeing Manager confirmed that the Council did liaise with the Federation to support Community Centres, principally through the work of the Contracts and Communities Officer but also via other Officers within the team. Community Centres had the potential to play a key role in delivering health and wellbeing services therefore, Officers were working with the Federation and Centre Managers to improve links both with the Council and other organisations such as Active Cumbria and the NHS through its "social prescribing" work.

The Healthy City Team Manager added that the team were keen to develop its relationship with the Federation and consideration was being given to offering training to the Federation in addition to the advice and support currently provided.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder acknowledged the importance of strong working relationships between the Council and the Federation and noted that it was well placed to apply for funding grants for the benefit of all Centres.

The Panel discussed the potential impacts of the proposed Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria on Community Centres. Members were of the view that it was important that the Centres were retained in order that they could continue to serve their communities.

RESOLVED - That the Community Centres Update (CS.11/21) be noted.

HWSP.22/21 A YEAR OF RESPONDING TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The Policy and Communications Manager presented report PC.13/21 which set out the response to the Covid 19 Pandemic in Carlisle in the year following the declaration of a global pandemic.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Why had the bid to the National Lottery to fund a Community Warden Network been unsuccessful?

The Policy and Communications Manager explained that the bid had been submitted between the first and second national lockdowns in 2020. As result of the second lockdown the National Lottery had returned its focus to funding projects that were associated with responding to the pandemic, rather than recovery work. The Council and its partners continued to work seek and apply for other streams of funding.

- Page 32 outlined a number of strategic priorities of the Welfare Reform Board (WRB), how would they be made into actions?

The Partnership Manager advised that the WRB were looking to develop an Action Plan based on its strategic priorities, should Members wish to view that document in was possible for it to be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

The Policy and Communications Manager undertook to circulate to the Panel minutes of the recent meetings of the WRB.

- The report identified a number of different organisations who were working in partnership to respond to the pandemic, how was the work co-ordinated to minimise duplication?

The Partnership Manager responded that work was co-ordinated by the Cumbria Resilience Forum but at a local level the Carlisle Community Resilience Group had been established which met on a bi-weekly basis, all partners fed into the meetings and it was recognised as a good source of information. In addition, a SharePoint site had been set up for all partners where they were able to update information in real time; this information was accessible to other partners and could be shared as appropriate. Partners have continued to work hard throughout the pandemic.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio added that the Cumbria Resilience Forum was jointly chaired by an Officer from Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils, which had worked extremely well. The work of the Officers had been recognised by an award from the High Sherriff of Cumbria, and the Portfolio Holder commended them for their work throughout the year.

- How would the data collected in the survey work included in the report be used?

The Policy and Communications Manager responded that the information incorporated into reports to the Council's Committees and Panels also formed part of the evidence base in relation to the pandemic response. The reports provided clarity for organisations in terms of local needs and the data in the reports may be used to assist with developing bids for funding.

The Partnership Manager explained that details of the research conducted by the University of Cumbria was regularly circulated amongst partners to ensure participation in the survey was accessible and covered the broadest range of stakeholders and communities as possible. Findings from the University and Healthwatch surveys had been shared at local, regional, national and, international levels. Some of the survey data had been considered by a Parliamentary Select Committee, the Health Foundation and the Cabinet Office and so would likely influence policy going forward. Presentations were also given to the WHO Carlisle Health Forum.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder added that through the Council's work as a Healthy City, data had been provided to international partners and Officers had been providing advice to other countries on responses to the pandemic.

- A Member considered that the impact of the pandemic had not affected individuals equally especially in relation to finances, she asked how those who had "slipped through the net" would be supported?

The Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder outlined the various forms of financial support the government had provided in response to the pandemic both to individuals, businesses, and the Council. He considered that the regeneration of the economy through the creation of jobs would form an important aspect of recovering from the pandemic.

The Partnership Manager considered that the impact of the pandemic had been cross cutting. She noted that partnership working had been very important in a key factor in responding to the pandemic and that organisations plans had aligned with the Public Health Strategy to ensure joined up working and to support funding bids for the delivery of projects. The WRB considered data provided by the Multi Agency Information Cell and information from those contacting Cumbria County Council's helpline was also assessed to ensure that the impact of the pandemic was understood. Furthermore, partner organisations also circulated data they collated as part of their work to ensure the widest understanding.

Members expressed their appreciation for the outstanding work undertaken by all organisations in response to the pandemic and in particular to the Resilience Group for its work in co-ordinating activities. The Partnership Manager was asked to convey, the Panel's thanks to all involved.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Partnership Manager convey the Panel's thanks to all the organisations involved in the response to the pandemic.

2) That the Panel endorsed the approach to communicate Carlisle's experience of the pandemic at local, regional, national, and international levels.

3) That the Policy and Communications Manager circulate to the Panel minutes from the recent Welfare Reform Board meetings.

HWSP.23/21 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020/21

The Policy and Communications Manager presented the Quarter 3 Performance Report 2020/21 (PC.15/21). The report contained the Quarter 3 performance against the current Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. Performance against the Panels' 2020/21 Key Performance Indicators were also included.

A Task and Finish Group had been set up to consider the content of future performance reports. It had met twice and had compiled a draft report for consideration at the next meeting of the Group. A copy of the final report would be circulated to the individual Scrutiny Panels in due course.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

- A Member considered the Council's use of social media to be outstanding and a very useful resource for residents and businesses.

The Policy and Communications Manager thanked the Member and noted that local authorities were seen as a reliable source of information, particularly in times of emergency such as the pandemic.

- The Performance Dashboard showed that the number of counts of littering had increased, but that the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices had not. A Member asked for further detail.

The Policy and Communications Manager responded that the difference in the figures may be due to a time lag in the data provided or as a result of the littering being investigated. He undertook to circulate further information on the matter to the Panel.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder drew the Panel's attention to data relating to the proportion of waste recycled which had shown a drop of 1%, given the impact of the pandemic she considered such performance to be very good.

A Member agreed with the Portfolio Holder and considered the ongoing delivery of services had been exceptional given the restrictions under which staff were operating.

- How was the work of Key Action 7 of the Carlisle Plan 2015 – 18 fitting in with that of the Food Hub?

The Policy and Communications Manager advised that a Food City Co-ordinator had been appointed for a two year period, they would ensure continuity.

- What progress had been made on the creation of a new Carlisle Plan?

The Policy and Communications Manager explained that a draft Plan had been developed in conjunction with the Executive and a report would be presented at the next meeting of the Panel.

In considering the overall performance of the Council as presented in the report, Members expressed their thanks to staff across the organisation for their work during the pandemic.

RESOLVED - That the Quarter 3 Performance Report 2020/21 be noted.

HWSP.24/21 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.05/21 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer drew the Panel's attention to the Notice of Executive Key Decisions and informed them that the Notice of Executive Key Decisions which had been published on 5 February and the following matters fell within the remit of the Panel:

- KD.01/21 – Carlisle Plan

The report set out responses from the Executive at its meeting of 8 February 2021 in relation to recommendations made by the Panel.

Members' attention was drawn to the Panel's Work Programme where the following items were had been identified for submission at the next meeting of the Panel:

- Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (CWIPS);
- Scrutiny Annual report 2020/21;
- Greenwich Leisure Limited;
- Draft Health City Strategy;
- Draft Carlisle Plan.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

The Health and Wellbeing Manager noted that Greenwich Leisure Limited had been closed as of January with a potential re-opening date of 12 April, he asked Members to indicate which areas they wished the report to focus on.

The Vice Chair responded that it would be useful for the report to cover Greenwich Leisure Limited's post Covid Plans and Strategy and events.

With reference to the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January, a Member noted that consideration had been given to receiving a report in relation the Waverly Viaduct.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer responded that the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services had advised that whilst a report was able to be prepared, there was no new information available that was not already in the public domain. The Vice-Chair had agreed that Panel would not take a report on Waverley Viaduct at this time.

The Leader advised that he was meeting with parties involved with the matter that day to consider matters in relation to the scheme.

RESOLVED - That the following items be submitted to the 8 April meeting of the Panel:

- Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (CWIPS);
- Scrutiny Annual report 2020/21;
- Greenwich Leisure Limited;
- Draft Health City Strategy;
- Draft Carlisle Plan.

[The meeting ended at 11.43am]