



## **Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel**

**Date:** Thursday, 13 January 2022

**Time:** 10:00

**Venue:** Cathedral Room

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Christine Finlayson, Councillor Colin Glover, Councillor Mrs Ann McKerrrell, Councillor John Paton, Councillor Fiona Robson, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Mrs Valerie Tarbitt, Councillor Miss Jeanette Whalen

**Also Present:** Councillor J Mallinson, Leader  
Councillor Ellis, Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Mrs Mallinson, Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Higgs, Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder

**Officers:** Deputy Chief Executive  
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

### **HWSP.01/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder and the Health and Wellbeing Manager.

### **HWSP.02/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were submitted:

Councillor Glover declared an interest in relation to agenda item A.2 - Culture in Carlisle and Links to Mental Health Support. The interest related to his membership on the Interim Carlisle Culture Board, he was also Chair of the Cumbria LEP Creative and Cultural Sector Panel.

Councillor Miss Whalen declared an interest in relation to agenda item A.0 - Question from member of the public. Her interest related to the fact she was friends with the member of public.

### **HWSP.03/22 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

### **HWSP.04/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

RESOLVED - It was noted that Council, on 4 January 2022, received and adopted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October and 25 November 2021. The Chair signed the minutes.

### **HWSP.05/22 QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services reported that the following question had been submitted on notice by a member of the public:

"Does the committee believe that Autistic people should be treated with respect or, in the words of one city council's receptionists "we have nothing to do with autism here"?"

The Chair responded that the City Council took allegations of this nature very seriously. The Customer Services team were trained to assist all residents with respect and professionalism, regardless of individual circumstance. It was the expectation of Carlisle City Council that this was demonstrated to every customer.

Should the Council be provided with more information, including the time this conversation occurred and the context, the comments would be investigated and any necessary action would be taken.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.8, the member of public asked who was responsible for training within the organisation to ensure comments such as those in the first question did not participate in future between the City Council and residents of the City.

The Chair responded that the Customer Services Manager led on the training of customer services staff. Once further information and context was received regarding the conversation this Panel would ensure that the matter was fully investigated.

### **HWSP.06/22 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS**

There were no items which had been the subject of call-in.

### **HWSP.07/22 CULTURE IN CARLISLE AND LINKS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted an update on the development and activities of Carlisle Culture, with a particular focus on mental health support (CS.01/22).

The Deputy Chief Executive gave a brief overview of the background to the cultural forum, Carlisle Culture, and the delivery of a Strategic Framework for Culture and detailed the ten priorities contained in the Framework.

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

- How would the success of Carlisle Culture be measured and what was the timescale for the achievement of the aims?

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Framework was the broad direction of travel. To be successful, a full programme of work needed to be agreed with timescales and performance indicators along with clear determination of the role of the cultural forum.

- There was a lot of focus on the city centre, how would the offer be brought into action at ward level?

The Deputy Chief Executive acknowledged that cultural work was already taking place in wards especially in community centres. Although significant progress had been made under priority 7 through Thriving Communities social prescribing project, more work was needed to build relationships with community organisations to include ward offer within the cultural programme.

As a member of the Interim Board, Councillor Glover commented that the cultural and creative offer had been a lifeline for many during the pandemic and there were many exciting things happening within the City. He felt it would be useful if the Panel and the Executive could share their thoughts on the properties as set out in the report and suggest what should be delivered first. He highlighted the importance of working with the Arts Council to achieve funding to support the programme.

- Would the Board be able to continue once Carlisle City Council ceased to exist?

The Deputy Chief Executive responded that the culture offer in Carlisle was the focus at this time, work would have to be carried out to look at potential new boundaries. It was known that the Arts Council preferred to support larger areas where a bigger impact could be made so the changes to the authorities may have a positive impact on the work. At this point the focus for the Board would be the next 12 to 18 months and the offer that could be delivered in Carlisle.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder stressed that there was an appetite to continue the cultural and creative work due to the positive impact on vulnerable people. There was a range of joint working taking place which had been vital during the pandemic and would continue to be vital to those in need.

The Leader added that, during the Local Government Reorganisation work, there had been positive informal discussions regarding the importance of culture and creativity and he was optimistic that the work would be important in the new authority.

The Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder commended the Deputy Chief Executive on the work he had undertaken to make such excellent progress. He felt that the priority should be for the Culture Board to find its own identity and not rely on local authorities to move forward.

RESOLVED - That the Panel noted report CS.01/22 the progress made and planned work for 2022.

## **HWSP.08/22 ACTIVE SPACES – UPDATE ON PLAN**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted an update on the planned programme of capital investment into the Council's active spaces stock for 2022/23 along with the longer-term strategic direction for making improvements beyond 2022/23 (CS.04/22).

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the facilities available within the City, the funding for the improvements and maintenance and the strategic approach taken to maximise the funding that was available.

In considering the report Members raised the following comment and questions:

- A Member commented that it was difficult for small districts and villages to receive Section 106 monies.
- The Panel thanked the Green Spaces team for their excellent work in keeping the green spaces operational in such difficult circumstances when residents really relied on them.
- The green spaces within Carlisle had proved invaluable during the pandemic. Was it possible to update and refresh the interpretation boards and information that was placed around the green spaces to enhance the education offer and the leisure experience.

The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to engage with local groups and discuss an audit of the interpretation boards with officers to undertake an audit of the condition of the information available in green spaces.

RESOLVED - That the Active Spaces - Update on Plan (CS.02/22) was noted.

## **HWSP.09/22 SOCIAL PRESCRIBING**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report regarding Social Prescribing (CS.03/22).

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that Social Prescribing was an approach being developed by the NHS and its partners to help address health and wellbeing issues across England. The report provided brief details of the approach, what was already happening in Carlisle and how the City Council could support future development, working with partners and stakeholders across the District.

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

- How would the hard to reach groups be engaged in the work, especially those that struggled with social situations or were isolated.

The Deputy Chief Executive responded that it was difficult to engage everyone who would benefit from Social Prescribing. Social Prescribing was an holistic approach to people's health and wellbeing through collaborative working with partners including the NHS and GPs. It did rely on people engaging in the offer however a wide range of agencies were involved in referring to Social Prescribing as well as the ability to self refer. He suggested that some work be carried out in preparing an advocacy pack for Members and local communities which provided information in a quick clear way.

- How would the Local Government Reorganisation impact the role of local authorities in Social Prescribing?

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the initial focus for the Reorganisation was the safe and legal perspective. To continue the Social Prescribing in the new authority there would need to be some joined up partnership work across the new area. There may be opportunities in the new authority to attract funding and make resources go further across a wider footprint.

- How was Social Prescribing promoted?

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the promotion of Social Prescribing was a difficult matter. There was a limited amount of services and resources available to meet needs. Consideration needed to be given to how the programme could be expanded.

- The Chair highlighted the current issues regarding the availability of NHS dentists and asked if this was a matter that could be addressed through the Healthy Cities?

The Deputy Chief Executive reminded the Panel that the City Council had no power in terms of access to dentists however the Healthy Cities Forum could use their advocacy to get a response to the issue.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder explained that the matter had already been raised and would be added to a future Healthy Cities agenda for discussion. The Portfolio Holder commended officers, in particular the Healthy City Team Manager, for their involvement in the success of Social Prescribing in the area.

RESOLVED - The Panel noted the contents of the Social Prescribing report (CS.03/22).

## **HWSP.10/22 OVERVIEW REPORT**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.03/22 providing an overview of matters relating to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

In response to a question the Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the Victorian Baths Feasibility Study would be included on the Panel's agenda on 17 February and it would not be scrutinised by the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED - That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel be noted (OS.03/22).

The Meeting ended at: 11:48