

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2012 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Luckley (Chairman) Councillors Mrs Bradley, Glover, McDevitt, Mrs Prest and Scarborough.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Geddes, Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
Councillor Bloxham, Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder
Mrs Jane Muller, Associate Director of Public Health, (North Cumbria) and Chair of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership
Mr Stephen Mason, Chief Executive of Carlisle Youth Zone
Mr David Leadbetter, Area Manager (North) Connexions Cumbria
Councillor Mrs Riddle, Observer

COSP.01/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Nedved and Councillor Mrs Parsons.

COSP.02/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Luckley declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda Item A.4 (ii) Working with Young People. Her interest related to the fact that she as member of the Carlisle Partnership. Councillor Mrs Luckley also declared a personal interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda Item 5 healthy Cities Week. Her interest related to the fact that she was a member of the Healthy Cities Strategic Group.

Councillor Mrs Luckley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of Agenda Item A.9 Accommodation and Foyer Service Development for Young People. Her interest related to the fact that she had previously made a decision regarding the Service as a Member of the Executive.

COSP.03/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings held on 24 November 2011 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

COSP.04/12 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

COSP.05/12 AGENDA

RESOLVED – That agenda item A.2 Overview Report be considered following agenda A.8 to avoid any unnecessary delay to external organisations attending the Panel.

COSP.06/12 CARLISLE YOUTH ZONE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mason, Chief Executive of Carlisle Youth Zone to the Panel.

Mr Mason gave a presentation on the Carlisle Youth Zone. He reminded the Panel of the core purpose of the Youth Zone:

- A safe place to go
- A place to belong
- A place to be valued and listened to
- A place of opportunities and challenge

Mr Mason took the Panel through the operating principles of the Youth Zone and emphasised that the Zone was a charity and relied on donations and pledges.

He gave a breakdown of the attendees to the Centre by Ward and informed the Panel that the youth Zone had over 2000 members with the Junior Club proving the most successful club with a footfall of 200 at each session. The Inclusion Club had also proved very successful with 40 members regularly attending sessions. The Holiday Club, Theme Nights and Party evenings had also been successful and had resulted in an increase in membership.

Mr Mason also highlighted a number of areas that had been less successful, the main issue being that the Youth Zone had not been prepared for its rapid success and had initially estimated that the membership would reach 2000 in April 2012. Another issue had arisen following a party and had shown that staff had not been ready for more challenging young people at the Centre.

Members had questioned the affordability of using the Youth Zone and Mr Mason explained that it cost approximately £500 a year for a young person

utilising the Youth Zone and parental contribution for a year was £30. He added that the Youth Zone had negotiated a discount on transport with Stagecoach. He informed the Panel that he was exploring how to identify families in need and offer a subsidy for additional cost activities as well working with schools to identify pupils who were entitled to free school meals and develop positive healthy eating.

He felt that the risks associated with the Youth Zone included the success of the Zone, integration of a diverse population, lack of trust with partners and the concerns regarding public sector funding beyond 2013.

Mr Mason outlined the financial viability of the Zone reporting that the finances for 2011/12 had been balanced and he was confident for 2012/13. A strategy was in place for a variety of funding streams and, through partnership working and collaboration, public money could be invested for a bigger return. He added that quality work with visible impact and positive outcomes would generate income from all streams.

He reported on the targeted services that would be taken forward in 2013 including identifying any gaps in service or enhancing services, a young offenders mentoring scheme in partnership with the Livingwell Trust and the Young Offenders Service, an apprenticeship scheme and peer befriending with the Inclusion Club.

In considering the information in Mr Mason's presentation the Panel raised the following queries and comments:

- The Youth Zone had enjoyed quick success, was the appropriate staff structure in place to deal with the success?

Mr Mason responded that at the current level the Zone had the appropriate staff structure but work was underway on a growth strategy for next year's budget. He added that partners also used the building, for example Young Carers, but brought their own staff.

- The Panel were pleased to hear that the Zone enabled members to volunteer and take on responsibility.

Mr Mason explained that 100 volunteers had been trained and the Zone utilised them in house.

- The Panel had some concerns that the Senior Club had not been as successful as the Junior Club.

Mr Mason commented that the current footfall per session for the Senior Club was 110 and the capacity within the facility was 250. If the footfall rose to the maximum capacity then there would be a requirement for more staff. Another way of increasing the numbers would be by using other facilities such as schools during evening time. This would increase the footfall but not affect the capacity of the Centre.

- Were there any issues with seasonal changes in attendance?

Mr Mason explained that during the summer months more activities were available outdoors and that offer would be developed further. There was also the opportunity of increasing the capacity off site by working with partners.

- A number of rural Wards had little or no access to public transport and there was concern that young people were not able to access the Youth Zone due to transport issues.

Mr Mason understood the Panel's concerns and reported that the Youth Zone had a mini bus which they used to transport youth workers and equipment to rural areas. Work was being undertaken to find the best way to engage with young people in rural areas and one idea was to take regular attendees at the Youth Zone out into the rural areas to encourage local youth interaction.

- Did the Youth Zone have connections with Carlisle College and the University of Cumbria?

Mr Mason confirmed that the Youth Zone had a very good relationship with Carlisle College and a number of students used the Youth Zone. The College had also approached the Youth Zone with the possibility of running some of the activities themselves.

He explained that the Youth Zone had a contractual arrangement with the University of Cumbria but it had not yet been developed. The Youth Zone also wanted to carry out more work with Connexions, the Job Centre and the City Council with regard to NEETs and homelessness.

- How secure was the core funding for the Youth Zone and how reliant was the Zone on funding from outside bodies?

Mr Mason explained that business partners, patrons and donors made a pledge for a set period of time and they were used for the financial projections. The Zone also received grants from the NHS and the County Council but they would be reviewed in 2013. He added that he had some anxiety but was reasonably confident about the situation and felt that more activities at the Youth Zone would result in lower overheads. He felt that collaborative and partnership working was the key to developing the Youth Zone.

- Members were concerned that the admission cost on top of transport costs may be too expensive for some families and they welcomed any initiatives the Youth Zone took to help those who needed it.

Mr Mason reassured the Panel that the Youth Zone was for everyone and he aimed to achieve greater community cohesion. Stagecoach owned a coach that had the Youth Zone logo on and the agreement was that the Youth Zone would have access to the coach once a month to bring young people into the

Centre. He added that some areas already had excellent youth clubs and so arrangements could be made to exchange some activities to increase the offer. He understood Members concerns about income barriers and if he could access the necessary data then options could be considered on how to assist those who needed it.

He explained that he aimed to keep the Youth Zone in excellent condition and have a rolling programme of equipment change. This may lead to an opportunity for other youth clubs to take some of the equipment into their own premises.

- Was there a feedback mechanism to identify when young people attended the Centre and why?

Mr Mason reminded the Panel that part of the ambition of the Youth Zone was to be youth driven and there were avenues for feedback. Unfortunately the hardest group to monitor were those who did not attend the Centre and the reasons why. Any research that was carried out would be used to develop and modify the activities on offer.

- Were there opportunities to improve the donations to the Youth Zone by using schemes such as Gift Aid?

Mr Mason confirmed that payment methods were being developed to ensure every penny was working hard. He added that there were a number of opportunities to increase the use of tax on membership fees and they would all be considered.

- The Panel congratulated Mr Mason on the success of the Youth Zone and wished the Youth Zone continuing success in the future.

RESOLVED – That Mr Mason be thanked for his informative presentation.

COSP.07/12 WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Director of Community Engagement (Mr Gerrard) submitted report CD.06/12 and an addendum which outlined activities, joint working arrangements and proposed new ways of working to improve wellbeing and address worklessness in young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) and how it contributed to the employment priorities outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Carlisle Partnership Manager (Mr Capstick) gave an overview of how Carlisle City Council worked with Cumbria Children's Trust via the Carlisle Partnership to ensure an appropriate partnership approach to addressing the Children and Young People's agenda in Carlisle. He outlined the structures that underpinned the relationship and changes that had occurred as well as giving a brief history to the partnership.

The Young Persons' Champion (Miss Sarah Moss-Luffram) highlighted how the Community Engagement Directorate supported young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and outlined the programmes and activities carried out by the directorate and in partnership.

The Panel welcomed Mr David Leadbetter, Area Manager (North) Connexions Cumbria.

Mr Leadbetter explained that Connexions Cumbria was under going a rebranding process and there was a challenge to ensure that the new name would be as recognised locally as Connexions. He informed the Panel that the single priority for Connexions at this time was to ensure that the 248 young people aged 16 to 18 years old in the Carlisle district that were classified as NEETs were engaged in employment, education or training.

He reported that Connexions provided a vacancy service to identify opportunities for young people but there were a number of other barriers that needed to be overcome to allow successful engagement. Connexions targets for NEETs was to ensure all 16/17 year olds were engaged in employment, education and training by 2013 and all young people up to 18 be engaged in employment, education and training by 2015.

He explained that Connexions worked in close partnership with a number of agencies including schools, youth clubs, the City Council and the Youth Zone to engage as many young people as possible and to bring down any barriers they may have which stopped them entering into employment, education or Training. An example of a scheme Connexions ran to help young people was their moped scheme 'Wheels to Work' which enabled young people to use a moped so that they could access opportunities for education or employment.

Mr Leadbetter added that Connexions had a very successful relationship with the Health Service and held a sexual health clinic which had become a very important service and gave young people the opportunity to talk to someone in a safe environment.

A key challenge for Connexions was to ensure that school leavers signed up for schemes, training opportunities and apprenticeships at the correct time and to give assistance with their CV's.

In considering the working with young people information Members raised the following comments and questions:

- During the change to Connexions had there been a reduction in staff?

Mr Leadbetter responded that Connexions had undergone a restructure in 2011 and he felt that they were now in a solid place to move forward. Connexions had tendered for a number of contracts with Cumbria County Council and the outcome of those contracts was still unknown but Mr Leadbetter felt that Connexions was in a strong position due to its partnership work.

Connexions had formed part of a national partnership called Transitions Plus which allowed Connexions to bid for national contracts and had allowed the National Citizens Service to come to Carlisle. The National Citizens Service was for year 11 school leavers and gave them the opportunity to take part in outward bound activities and learn new skills.

- Did Connexions have a strong partnership with the private sector?

Mr Leadbetter confirmed that there was a good relationship with the private sector but it could be developed further.

- Did Connexions monitor NEET trends to identify areas which had a high number of NEETs and the reasons why?

Mr Leadbetter explained that Connexions analysed information broken down by Wards and a lot of the delivery group work considered how resources could be pooled to target specific areas. The 248 NEETs were treated individually and had a bespoke service depending on their requirements. Connexions used trends and data available from schools alongside a range of evidence to tackle individual or reflective issues.

- The Panel understood that it was difficult to identify young carers but wanted to ensure that they were being supported as required.

Mr Leadbetter responded that Connexions worked alongside existing support groups to provide any additional support that they could and ensure that they had access to opportunities within the community.

- What links were available for young people, especially those with a disability, who had successfully completed training and wanted to take the next step?

Mr Leadbetter reported that it was a challenge to assist young people in moving forward following training. He felt that there was a mismatch between the qualifications of young people and the qualifications that employers required.

- Did Connexions have any links with the Volunteer Bureau?

Mr Leadbetter felt that volunteers were important and Connexions had links with the Volunteer Bureau but recognised that more work was required. There were a number of projects that involved volunteers including involving young people who had experienced homelessness in developing a programme for preventative work for other vulnerable young people.

RESOLVED – 1) That Mr Leadbetter be thanked for his input into the meeting.

2) That Report CD.06/12 Working with Young People be welcomed.

3) That the Panel receive an annual update report in 12 months time.

COSP.08/12 CARLISLE HEALTHY CITIES WEEK

The Director of Community Engagement (Mr Gerrard) submitted report CD.07/12 and an addendum which provided an overview of the Healthy City Week and background information on the World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Programme.

The Health Improvement and Healthy City Officer (Miss Dixon) gave a short presentation on the Healthy City week highlighting the events and activities that took place and the key speakers involved. She reported that the Healthy City Week had taken place on 17 to 23 October 2011 and over 2,900 people had directly participated. She outlined the aims and objectives for Healthy City Week and some of the feedback which had been received. Miss Dixon also played a short DVD showing the Panel some of the activities which took place during the Week.

Mr Gerrard commented that a great deal had been learned from the Healthy City Week and it had received a lot of press coverage.

- The Panel thanked everyone involved in the Healthy City Week and congratulated them on the success of the week.
- The Panel urged the City Council to embed the Healthy City policy in all of the Council's policies and strategies.
- Members questioned whether October was the most appropriate time of year for the Healthy City Week.

Miss Dixon responded that there had been a number of comments regarding the timing of the Week but it was important to ensure that the Healthy City Week was during school term time to allow for the necessary links. There had been some bad weather during the Week but there was still attendance at the activities regardless of the weather and many activities were indoors. Officers also wanted to show that regardless of the weather there were activities available across the City and that the clock change during October had contributed to the success of the week by allowing the cycle safety sessions to take place.

- Members felt that the use of the main square in the City Centre for a Zumba class had been very successful and suggested the area be used to showcase other events and activities available in the City.
- Had there been any feedback which demonstrated if the participants in the activities had made any permanent changes to their lifestyle?

Miss Dixon explained that it was difficult to measure the effect on participants lifestyle without an intervention being in place, but the Week had raised the

awareness of the activities that were available and encouraged people to access other services and activities.

She added that on a broader level the week had made changes and influenced future places, projects and policy development.

- Members hoped that outdoor gyms could be set up in more parks across the City.
- One of the suggestions for future focus of the Week was alcohol, Members felt that this would be very useful especially if it was focussed on young people.

Miss Dixon understood Members concerns regarding young people and alcohol and, although it was a large subject, it would be included in the recommendations for the next Healthy City Week.

Mrs Jane Muller, Associate Director of Public Health, (North Cumbria), commented that the main driver was policy change to improve health and policy development was taking place. The Healthy City week had been about letting people know about Healthy Cities and the role that everyone had health and the effect on communities.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder thanked everyone involved in the Healthy City Week and was pleased that there had been cross party involvement from Members. She commented that the issues raised through Healthy Cities affected everyone and there had to be cross party support to move the City into the future.

RESOLVED – That the update on the Healthy City Week be welcomed.

COSP.09/12 CARLISLE AND EDEN JOINT CDRP SCRUTINY

The minutes of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel held on 17 November 2011 had been submitted for consideration.

Mrs Jane Muller, Chair of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership, reported that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Leadership Group had met on 16 December to give consideration to the future of the CDRP. The Group considered the options for the future of the CDRP which had been submitted by both Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council.

Mrs Muller outlined the main comments from the CDRP Leadership Group meeting:

- All partners were keen to maintain the momentum of the work of the CDRP and were keen not to lose sight of the work that had been carried out across Carlisle and Eden
- They were aware of the reduction in funding in 2012/13 and that there would be no funding at all in 2014
- They discussed how the work could continue and how they could keep partners engaged
- They discussed the effect of the new Police Commissioner and agreed to continue to work to reduce crime rates and maintain the Leadership Group, with Mrs Muller as Chair, until further guidance was available with regard to the Police Commissioner
- They began to look at different ways of working as there would be no CDRP Manager or admin support from March 2012
- The Strategic Assessment and Business Case for 2012/13 was in place
- They would look at the Local Problem Solving Group and some of the Task and Finish Groups
- The main agenda item had been to consider performance and to identify hotspots to keep work moving forward
- There would be an extraordinary meeting of the Leadership Group on 20 January to sign off the final details

Mrs Muller felt confident that the work of the CDRP could be maintained through partnership working.

The Director of Community Engagement (Mr Gerrard) reminded the Panel that the City Council would continue to employ a Community Safety Officer and a Community Safety Assistant to support the Problem Solving Group.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder commented that the Problem Solving Group would be much more proactive rather than reactive as it was previously.

In considering the information from Mrs Muller Members raised the following questions and comments:

- Members thanked the CDRP for the support they provided in local schemes.

Mrs Muller responded that there would continue to be some money at County level to fund projects and the CDRP would have an input into how it would be used.

- Members were impressed with the work carried out by MARAC and the domestic abuse projects and hoped that the work could continue.

Mrs Muller reported that the work was being carried out at County level and there was no intention to remove MARAC or the domestic abuse work.

Members noted that the number of domestic abuse incidents had increased due to greater awareness of the reporting mechanism, were there any links to preventative measures and the people who were at risk and what steps could be taken?

Mrs Muller confirmed that preventative measures were part of the work of the County Group and many partners already had policies and procedures in place and staff trained to help identify those people at risk and signpost them accordingly. The CDRP would continue to monitor the work closely as prevention was the key to reducing domestic abuse incidents.

RESOLVED – 1) That Mrs Muller be thanked for her input into the meeting

2) That the minutes of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Joint Scrutiny Panel held on 17 November 2011 be approved;

3) That the draft letter from the Chairman of the Joint Scrutiny Panel to the Executive committees of Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council be approved.

COSP.10/12 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had, at its meeting on 24 November 2011, agreed the final report of the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) Task and Finish Group and referred it to the Executive for a formal response.

The Executive had, on 12 December 2012 (EX.166/11) considered the matter and resolved:

“1. That the Executive had considered the final report of the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group as attached to Report OS.33/11; and

2. That a further response to the recommendations contained within the final report would be provided at the next meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.”

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder read out a full response to each of the recommendations contained within the Task and Finish Groups report:

“The recommendations of the group are listed below with an update of the position to date by each and further actions;

1. That the Council continue to lobby Government to ensure that an appropriate amount of funding is secured to satisfy DFG demand in Carlisle.

Update

Lobbying activity has been carried out in the last 2-3 years in conjunction with the other Cumbrian council's through the countywide DFG project co-ordinator Robert Cornwall successfully resulting in funding increases. The national DFG group that Robert is on has been re-established by central government and he has started to take a number of the key points regarding increasing demand and funding to the group.

Further actions to be taken

- Following mapping and model development work from the Integrated DFG group communication with elected members and governing structures within Cumbrian district councils, the county council and health.
- Letter to the Housing Minister asking for a meeting regarding the work of the Integrate model group and funding issues.

2. That the Executive give consideration to allocating some or all of the New Homes Bonus Grant to the DFG Budget.

Update

Considerations for DFG capital funding are a part of the budget proposal 12/13 currently under consultation and will be considered by full Council on 7 February 2012

Further actions to be taken

- Actions resultant of consultation and budget setting
- ### **3. That a clear reporting procedure is developed between Riverside, Social Care and the Council so that the Council is fully aware of all DFG cases from referral to completion to comply with its statutory duty in the provision of major adaptations.**

Update

Meetings have taken place with Riverside and Adult Social Care to put the required system in place.

Further actions to be taken

- Regular monitoring of the DFG applications list
 - Regular meetings with both Riverside staff and Adult Social Care Occupational Therapists
- ### **4. That consideration be given to requesting that Riverside contribute the first £7,000 of all DFGs relating to their properties.**

Update

Meetings have been held with Riverside where this request has been made. They clarified their approach to their review and the paper which they hope to take to their board in mid January. They are looking to fund all smaller adaptations (Over bath showers, ramps and walk in showers) as well as the first £7,000 of higher cost adaptations to their properties. This approach is subject to approval from their board.

Further actions to be taken

- Confirming position on the future of funding DFG's by Riverside following their board meeting in mid January
- Regular monitoring and liaison with Riverside staff

5. That the development of a Countywide procurement framework for adaptations is explored with other District Councils, Health and Social Care.

Update

The first meeting of the working group took place on 4th January 2012. The timetable for the development of an integrated delivery model for DFGs was agreed at this meeting.

Further actions to be taken

- Monthly meetings of this group have been set up
- Range of options for future delivery to be put forward by April/May 2012
- Preferred model selected – September 2012
- Preferred model implemented – April 2013

6. That the option of developing a community based recycling organisation for adaptations is considered further.

Update

This will be apart of the work undertaken by the integrated working group.

Further actions to be taken

- This will be apart of the work undertaken by the group in identifying the range of options for service delivery by April/May 2012

7. That Carlisle City Council be prepared to pilot the DFG integrated model with Health and Social Care.

Update

Simon Taylor from Carlisle City Council attended the meeting of the Integrated working pilot on 4th January 2012 and we will be playing a key role in taking the work of the group forward.

Further actions to be taken

- Continued involvement in the work of the working group
- Review of DFG processes within Carlisle
- Adoption of agreed integrated DFG model

8. That the Council has discussions with the GP Consortia to address the identified imbalance between acute care and prevention service funding in recognition of the contribution that DFG's make to preventing hospital admissions.

Update

The integrated working group has representation from the NHS Commissioners on it and as a part of the work of the group will be looking at how the DFG process interacts with Health. It is anticipated that the work of the group will look at the role that DFG's play in dealing with prevention of hospital admissions with the aim to develop an integrated funded model between health, social care and district councils.

Further actions to be taken

- This will be apart of the work undertaken by the group in identifying the range of options for service delivery by April/May 2012

9. That the Executive give consideration within the budget process of the impact that committed grant carried forward has on the budget in the following year.

Update

Considerations for DFG capital funding are a part of the budget proposal 12/13 currently under consultation will be considered by full Council on 7 February 2012.

Further actions to be taken

- Actions resultant of consultation and budget setting

10. That Planning Officers should consider raising the issue of Lifetime Homes when considering and discussing planning applications.

Update

This recommendation has been forwarded to Planning Section so officers can consider raising the issue of Lifetime Homes when considering and discussing planning applications.

Further actions to be taken

- Planning officers to enact the recommendation and monitor implementation as appropriate.”

The Portfolio Holder added that a lot of work had been carried out since the completion of the Task and Finish Group report and most importantly closer working with partners had begun.

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

- Procurement was an important element in making the most of the DFGs funding and Members urged officers to move forward with the Countywide procurement framework for adaptations.
- Central Government announced additional funding for DFGs, was it known how much the City Council would receive or what formula would be used?

Mr Gerrard explained that it was his understanding that Carlisle would receive an additional £60,000 to £70,000, some of which would have to be spent in this financial year. He to provide further information to a future meeting of the Panel.

- The Panel thanked the Executive for their detailed response and asked that the response be made into an action plan that the Panel and the Executive could monitor.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Executive be thanked for their detailed response to the Disabled Facilities Grants Task and Finish Group recommendations;

2) That the actions set out in the Executive’s response be made into an action plan for monitoring purposes;

3) That the Director of Community Engagement report back to the Panel on the additional Disabled Facilities Grants funding received from Central Government.

COSP.11/12 ANNUAL EQUALITIES REPORT

The Policy and Communications Manager (Mr O'Keeffe) submitted report PPP.21/11 which highlighted the main developments during 2011 and preparations for the new duty in 2012.

Mr O'Keeffe reminded the Panel that the City Council, alongside all the Cumbria local authorities, had received an award from the North West Employers for the success of the 'Achieving Cumbria Equality' project. He added that the officer and member groups behind the project continued to meet to share work and good practice, working together to maintain the standard set.

He also reminded the Panel of the Learning Pool which had recently been introduced by the Organisational Development Team which included Equality and Diversity as a subject. He also highlighted other training activities which raised awareness of equalities.

Mr O'Keeffe explained the aim of the Equality Duty which came into force in April 2011 and outlined a proposed timetable to meet the objectives.

In response to a question Mr O'Keeffe confirmed that he would circulate the minutes of the Corporate Equality Group to Members of the Panel.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Annual Equalities Report be welcomed

2) That the Policy and Communications Manager circulate the minutes of the Corporate Equalities Group to all Members of the Panel.

3) That the draft objectives report be submitted to the Panel in March 2012.

COSP.12/12 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer (Mrs Edwards) presented report OS.02/12 which provided an overview of matters relating to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel's work and included the latest version of the work programme and Forward Plan items which related to the Panel.

Mrs Edwards reported that:

- The Forward Plan of Executive Key Decisions, covering the period 1 January to 30 April 2012 had been published on 16 December 2011 and there were no items in the Forward Plan within the remit of this Panel.
- The following references from the Executive held on 12 December 2011 had been included in the Report:

EX.164/11 and EX.167/11 – Tullie House Business Plan and Lease Arrangements

EX.165/11 – Budget 2012/13 – Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the Draft Budget reports

- The Homelessness Task and Finish Group had made arrangements for Members to visit John Street Hostel on 30 January 2012 and Staffield House on 2 February 2012. A workshop for partners had been arranged for 6 February 2012.
- The Customer Services Shared Business Case was in the work programme but this work was no longer going ahead and Mrs Edwards for Members approval to remove the item from the Work Programme.

RESOLVED – 1) That, subject to the issues raised above, the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Forward Plan items relevant to this Panel be noted.

2) That Minute Excerpts EX.164/11 and EX.167/11 – Tullie House Business Plan and Lease Arrangements and EX.165/11 – Budget 2012/13 – Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the Draft Budget reports of the Executive held on 12 December 2011 be noted.

3) That the Customer Service Shared Business Case be removed from the Work Programme for this Panel.

COSP.13/12 ACCOMMODATION AND FOYER SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Councillor Mrs Luckley, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, retired from the meeting room during consideration of this item of business.

Councillor Glover chaired the item.

The Director of Community Engagement (Mr Gerrard) submitted report CD.07/12 which provided an update on the development of the Shaddon Gateway Resource Centre.

The Homelessness Prevention and Accommodation Manager (Mrs Rhodes) informed the Panel that the construction of the Centre had been completed in December 2011. There were ongoing monthly meetings were taking place between key officers and Carlisle YMCA to ensure that the scheme and work programme developed within the tight timeframe. Carlisle YMCA had, in November 2011, appointed Mr Tim Linford as the Centre Manager to enable closer working with officers and to share knowledge and information. Mr Linford would be based initially within the Civic Centre until the handover was complete. The details of the management agreement and contracting arrangements were being finalised and it was hoped the lease would be signed for five year duration. Officers were working with the YMCA to update the project, PR and financial plans to reflect the updated timescales and

milestones and they would be included in the next Panel report due in February 2012.

Mrs Rhodes added that meetings with key agencies and partners were being arranged to view the Centre and discuss business opportunities and it had been agreed with the YMCA that the handover and opening of the Centre would take place on 2 April 2012.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder suggested that the Panel may wish to hold their next meeting in the Resource Centre. He added that he felt that the Development was an exciting project which would require some work but he was confident that the YMCA would be successful with partners.

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

- Why had there been an overspend on the building of the Resource Centre?

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder explained that the overspend had been the result of additional work that had to be undertaken at John Street Hostel to comply with healthy and safety requirements.

- Was the revenue funding in place?

Mr Gerrard responded that it was important to get the partners signed up and the YMCA had already identified a commitment for revenue funding. He added that he would have more information in the next report due in February.

- Had there been any progress with the Supporting People contracts and would they impact the Resource Centre?

Mrs Rhodes confirmed that the contracts would not impact the Centre. The outcome of the mini tenders would be known at the beginning of February. Mrs Rhodes added that she had been given a list of successful providers for other contracts and they had been contacted to arrange a visit to the Resource Centre.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Homelessness Prevention and Accommodation Manager be thanked for her leadership and enthusiasm during the project;

2) That the update on the Accommodation and Foyer Service Development for Young People be welcomed;

3) That the Panel receive a detailed update on the Development at the February 2012 meeting;

4) That the next meeting of the Panel be held at the Shaddon Gateway Resource Centre if possible.

COSP.14/12 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

During consideration of the above Item of Business, it was noted that the meeting had been in progress for 3 hours and it was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 9, in relation to the duration of meetings be suspended in order that the meeting could continue over the time limits of 3 hours.

(The meeting ended at 1.05pm)