

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 20 JULY 2017 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: Councillor Paton (Chairman), Burns, Bainbridge (as substitute for Councillor Mrs Mallinson until 11.35am), Ellis, Layden, McDonald, McNulty and Sidgwick S.

ALSO

PRESENT: Superintendent Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary
Chief Inspector Mackay, Vice Chairman of North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership
Mr Evans, Victim Support
Councillor Mrs Bradley, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Parsons, Observer
Councillor Mrs Finlayson, Observer

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Contracts and Community Services Manager
Policy and Communications Manager
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

COSP.37/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Mallinson, Councillor Miss Sherriff – Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder and Councillor Ms Quilter – Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder.

COSP.38/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Sidgwick declared a registrable interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item A.3 – Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2017/18. The interest related to the fact that he was Chair of the Trinity Area Community Trust (TACT).

COSP.39/17 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

COSP.40/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2017 and 1 June 2017 be signed by the Chairman.

COSP.41/17 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

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

COSP.42/17 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted report OS.15/17 which provided an overview of matters relating to the work of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel and included the latest version of the work programme and Key Decisions of the Executive which related to the Panel.

The Notice of Executive Key Decisions had been published on 30 June 2017 and included the following which fell within the remit of the Panel:

Items which have been included in the Panel's Work Programme:

KD.05/17 - Food Law Enforcement Service Plan (for information only)

KD.15/17 – Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2017/18

Items which had not been included in the Panel's Work Programme:

KD.16/17 – Authority to dispose of affordable housing commuted sum funding

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded the Panel that the City Council had, on 11 July 2017, agreed to change the names and the remits of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels:

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel	————>	Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel	————>	Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel	————>	Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

He highlighted section 3 of the report which set out the parts of the remit which had changed for the new Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer stressed the importance of Scrutiny being Member led and drew attention to the possible areas of focus for the work programme as set out in appendix 1 of the report. He asked that the Panel give consideration to the priorities for the Panel in the next financial year.

The Panel discussed the changes to the remit highlighting, in particular, waste that had moved from Environment & Economy. Members were concerned that there needed to be a period of adjustment when new matters were being considered by the Panel and suggested that Members, who had previously been involved in the items, be invited to meetings or that Members change Panels should they so wish.

In discussing upcoming priorities a Member reminded the Panel that they had previously expressed an interest in carrying out some work regarding young people in Carlisle and urged the Panel to move the matter forward. It was agreed that some work on focus areas would take place out with the Panel before being reported back to the Panel at a future date for a decision.

The Panel discussed the potential areas of work and agreed that the following be added to the work programme:

- Partnership Plan
- Cultural Strategy

It was suggested that the two matters be scrutinised as Task and Finish Groups.

Members noted that the agreement between the City Council and Riverside Carlisle had not been completed, they were anxious that the agreement should be picked up by the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel as part of their Work Programme.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Key Decision items relevant to this Panel (OS.15/17) be noted.

2) That the Partnership Plan and the Cultural Strategy be added to the Panel's work Programme as Task and Finish Groups;

3) That the Panel recommend to the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel that they add the agreement between Carlisle City Council and Riverside Carlisle to their work programme.

COSP.43/17 CARLISLE AND EDEN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PLAN 2017/18

The Chairman welcomed Superintendent Bibby, Chief Inspector Mackay and Mr Evans to the meeting.

The Contracts and Community Services Managers submitted the North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Partnership Plan (CS.14/17).

The Contracts and Community Services Manager reported that the Plan had been developed by the CSP's Leadership Group with input from City Council Officers and the Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager set out the background to the Plan which was a high level and brief summary of priorities for 2017-2018 but was supported by a more detailed action plan which was delivered by the Community Safety Partnership Task Group Members. He added that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment upon which it was based was detailed and reliable; however the Overview and Scrutiny Panel had previously noted that the inclusion of the City Centre area in specific Wards could effectively misrepresent the position in the rest of those Wards. A commentary would be included in the next Joint Strategic Assessment to reflect the effect.

Chief Inspector Mackay informed the Panel that the Partnership had changed to the North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership and he gave an overview of the five key priorities of the Partnership for 2017-18 which aligned multi-agency priorities with police priorities:

- Reducing Re-Offending
- Domestic & Sexual Violence
- Alcohol & Substance Misuse
- Violent Crime
- Anti-social Behaviour

In addition he reported that the Partnership had highlighted the following areas as current and would be tackled alongside the priorities:

- Cyber Crime
- Child Sex exploitation
- Trafficking

Chief Inspector Mackay was pleased to report that the development of a multi-agency hub would be established in the Civic Centre which would enable the problem solving groups in the District to work together and would also generate some efficiencies.

In considering the Annual Plan Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Domestic and Sexual Violence was a priority for the CSP but there was little evidence of partnership working which involved local charities or community organisations who came into regular contact with victims. It would be valuable for the CSP to engage with the organisations to find out what work they undertook and how they could be supported further or feed back into the partnership work.

Mr Evans encouraged engagement with local organisations and charities that could support and sign post individuals. He stressed that it was important that those giving the support had to be trained to not only provide the support but to recognise the signs of abuse, to

understand confidentiality and guide the conversations so information could be gathered which individuals may not be comfortable in sharing.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder informed the Panel that the City Council had a statutory responsibility to assist anyone experiencing or at risk of any forms of violence including domestic violence and worked closely with local key partners, including third sector partners as part of the Interagency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle to address shared key local priorities.

She explained that the City Council's Women and Families Accommodation scheme was purpose built and designed; and offered safe and secure supported emergency accommodation for single women and families. It was explained that this included men as part of the family unit, single male parents with children and male children as part of a family unit.

In addition the Homelessness Prevention and Accommodation Manager had been responsible for submitting a bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government on behalf of a countywide partnership between Cumbria County Council and all the District Councils; which secured £729,877.24 over two years. The funding would support specialist accommodation based support and preventative service reforms to help local areas meet the priorities for domestic abuse services

A Member agreed that training was essential for the community organisations and felt that engagement with the CSP would benefit those organisations in gaining confidence and new skills to support individuals.

In response to a further question Mr Evans explained that Victim Support worked very closely with the Police and the majority of referrals came through the Police. Victim Support ran specialist services in Cumbria which included Bridgeway, Independent Sexual Violence Advisor and Turning the Spotlight. Victim Support also worked to identify low / medium risk offenders to work to reduce the risk of them moving on to a more serious offence.

- A Member felt that some of the CSP strategies and activities did not match up to their overall vision and drew attention to a recent event held at the Old Fire Station which had been reported in the newspaper as being funded by the CSP.

The Contracts and Community Services Manager responded that the event had been a full day event which aimed to provide rehabilitation support and guidance to ex-military personnel from a wide range of organisations. If there was benefit in future events and funding available then it was possible similar events could be organised in the future.

- How did voluntary organisations get involved in the CSP?

Chief Inspector Mackay explained that there were a number of statutory and non-statutory organisations involved in the CSP and any organisation would make an approach to be involved. Information was available on the website and it was important for the CSP that everyone in the community worked together. In addition community groups could contact the CSP or Elected Members to become involved in the work.

- Were schools involved in preventative CSP work?

The Contracts and Community Services Manager confirmed that schools were very much part of the preventative work carried out and the CSP funded innovative high impact work in schools which had been very effective.

- How would the CSP Plan be assessed at the end of the year?

The Contracts and Community Services Manager suggested that statistical information and evidence be gathered and presented annually as part of the Annual Strategic Assessment this would be a review of the key priorities and key achievements along with information on areas that did not go well. The Panel agreed that this would be beneficial for scrutiny purposes and asked that the Contracts and Community Services Manager take the suggestion back to the Leadership Board.

- The Panel had previously scrutinised information from the Cumbria Observatory and representatives at the time had not been able to provide background information for some of the changes to the statistics. It was suggested that future reports from the Observatory coincide with CSP reports to allow for fuller more detailed scrutiny of information.

Superintendent Bibby commented that he would be happy to attend future meetings of the Panel to provide context to statistical data.

- How was information made available to individuals who had been isolated as part of their abuse?

Superintendent Bibby responded that the CSP and Police ensured that officers and staff had appropriate training to recognise signs and triggers to identify victims or potential victims. Signposting was available on websites or through agencies where individuals may come into contact such as GPs. The Police worked closely with Victim Support to provide comprehensive support and to ensure that there was a support network for those who had the courage to come forward.

- What help was available for those suffering mental abuse and could the abuser be prosecuted?

Superintendent Bibby confirmed that controlling behaviour which impacted the mental health of an individual was a criminal offence and abusers could be prosecuted. He detailed the options available to the Police including Victimless Prosecutions and Domestic Violence Protection Notices.

Mr Evans reiterated the importance of training as some individuals did not recognise that they were being abused and it was important that agencies recognised the signs at an early stage.

Superintendent Bibby added that it was a priority to encourage reporting and that a number of organisations had a statutory responsibility to make appropriate referrals through the multi-agency safeguarding organisation. Referrals would be assessed along with the urgency and the appropriate intervention required.

A Member asked how victims would be protected if a Victimless Prosecution went ahead and Superintendent Bibby explained that in some cases the Victimless Prosecution was required to protect the individual as they did not always protect themselves. Sometimes individuals needed the intervention and the provision of a network of support, advice and guidance.

- How was the number of individuals re-offending being reduced?

Superintendent Bibby gave an overview of the Integrated Offender Management Programme which identified local offenders, who were problematic to any community or section of a community; and proactively managed that person through a multi-agency partnership approach. The Programme encouraged them, to take responsibility and ownership of their behaviour and the impact it had on the community.

- In the most recent assessment, the Carlisle District had the largest increase in the number of alcohol-related crimes and of alcohol-related violent crime in Cumbria, what was being undertaken to address the issue?

Superintendent Bibby reminded the Panel that Carlisle had a healthy night time economy which was the biggest in Cumbria. He explained that a wide range of incidents were classed as 'violent crime' but the statistics for Carlisle were very low in comparison to national figures and Carlisle was a good safe place to live.

- A Member congratulated the Police on the recent success of Operation Mangrove which had tackled the problem of anti-social behaviour in the City Centre and asked for an overview of the operation.

Superintendent Bibby detailed Operation Mangrove which addressed an increase in anti-social behaviour in the City Centre which had been out with the usual type of anti-social behaviour. To address the issue Police took a holistic approach and looked at and addressed the causes of the behaviour rather than just deploy additional resources to the area. Support was offered to the individuals involved and the root causes had been addressed. As a result the youth only anti-social behaviour was at its lowest level since 2015 and a sustainable solution had been introduced which could be built on.

- The Panel asked for an update on the proposed Hub.

Superintendent Bibby reported that the Hub would be operational from 4 September 2017 and would bring several agencies to work together in one place.

- How did the Police cope with the changes to the type of crime that was being committed and were areas of policing suffering as a result?

Superintendent Bibby responded that Cumbria Constabulary was continuously trying to develop. The new crimes that were emerging meant that changes were needed and one area that the Constabulary had changed was the telephone system. Any call to the Police went directly to a Police Officer and it was hoped that the majority of calls could be dealt with at this stage freeing up Officer capacity at the front line. The Constabulary had had significant budget challenges but had invested in technology which meant all Officers had access to a device and live system no matter where they were. The Constabulary had also piloted an appointment system which had proved very successful.

Mr Evans added that a victim's experience of the system may not always be positive as they may have had to wait too long for a response or they may not like the outcome, in this respect Victim Support worked in partnership with Cumbria Constabulary as an advocate for the victim.

Chief Inspector Mackay informed the Panel that a victim now had the right for a review if they were not happy with an outcome.

- In response to a Member's comment Superintendent Bibby gave a detailed overview of Police protocols for Police pursuit in a vehicle including reasons and the approval protocol.

RESOLVED – 1) That the North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2017/18 (attached to report CS.14/17) be welcomed;

2) That the Contracts and Community Services Manager request that the Leadership Board include statistical information and evidence of how effective work had been at tackling the CSP's priorities in the Annual Strategic Assessment to enable effective scrutiny of the CSP Action Plan.

3) That in future, annual reports from the Cumbria Observatory and the CSP are considered by the Panel at the same meeting to allow for fuller more detailed scrutiny of information.

The Panel adjourned for a short break at 12.03pm and reconvened at 12.10pm.

COSP.44/17 ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2016/17 AND EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2017/18

The Policy and Communications Manager submitted the Annual Equality Report for 2016/17 and the Equality Action Plan 2017/18 (PC.12/17).

The Policy and Communications Manager reminded the Panel of the Council's duty under the Equality Act (2010), the Council must provide information about how equality was considered in decision making, policy development and engagement.

The Annual Equality Report 2016/17 provided an overview of equality work, including the workforce profile, details of equality impact assessments, customer satisfaction, complaints, consultation and engagement. The report provided contextual data about the workforce and training, and employee support.

Work was being undertaken for 2017/18 to address issues highlighted within the report and continue good practice. The Equality Action Plan 2017/18 set out the actions on how the Council would continue to work towards achieving the equality objectives and address the issues identified.

In considering the Report and Action Plan Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Was there a mechanism for comparing the City Council Equality Report to other Equality Reports from other Councils?

The Policy and Communications Manager confirmed that comparison information was accessed in a variety of ways during the production of the report.

- Members respected that some employees did not want to declare information on the equality monitoring forms and asked if it was possible to gather information to find out why employees did not want to declare the information.
- A Member commented that there was a large amount of information gathered that was not relevant to the function of the Council and felt that additional categories, as suggested in the report, would result in more people refusing to complete the monitoring forms.

The Policy and Communications Manager understood Members concerns and reminded the Panel that the monitoring information ensured that the City Council offered equality in recruitment, decision making, policy development and engagement.

- The Panel discussed agile working and asked that information on the number of requests made for flexible working be included in the next Annual Plan.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Annual Equality Report 2016/17 and the Equality Action Plan 2017/18 be welcomed;

2) That the next Annual Equality Report include information on the number of agile working requests made to the City Council along with the number that were granted.

(Meeting ended at 12.33pm)