

## Overview and Scrutiny

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 12 January.

### Performance Focus - Communities

2. We welcomed Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member for Early Intervention, and Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member for Homes and Housing presented the Communities Performance Focus.
3. The directorate includes the following services:
  - Communities,
  - Housing Solutions,
  - Public Protection.
4. The provisional outturn for Communities shows an overspend of £135k as of October 2022, giving a 7.27% variance against the current budget. This is due to the proposed pay award for 2022/23, an increase in the amount allocated towards Bed and Breakfasts and a reduction income. This is due to the NHS and Lancashire Constabulary confirming that they would not be contributing toward staffing costs in the Communities Team for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 periods.
5. A report is due to be considered at the Executive Cabinet the following week regarding the 2023-25 Community Commissioning Procurement.
6. Difficulties with recruitment and staffing capacity are acknowledged, particularly within Environmental Health and the Housing Solutions teams. We thanked the staff within the Directorate for their work during difficult circumstances.
7. We reviewed the performance indicator information and noted that the team has supported existing community groups, including those providing 'warm spaces'.
8. Positive performance for indicators relating to % of families in B&B for less than 6 weeks and % of positive outcomes in prevention and relief cases are noted, although some indicators are performing below target.
9. We discussed the work undertaken regarding digital skills, support given to community groups, volunteers and refugees.
10. We considered the Chorley Adaptations Grant (CAG) and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) regarding the process, budget and relating to Registered Social Landlords. Other grants, relating to energy efficiency and affordable warmth are noted.
11. The forthcoming recruitment of a Housing Standards Officer and new approach to 'grow our own' in terms of long term succession planning in the Housing Solutions team were supported by Members. We acknowledged the working patterns for the different teams.

## **Recommendation**

12. To note the report.

Councillor John Walker  
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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