

Minutes of **Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel**

Meeting date **Thursday, 12 January 2023**

Committee Members present: Councillor John Walker (Chair) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Michelle Le Marinel, Arjun Singh and Kim Snape

Observers present: Councillors Terry Howarth, Beverley Murray and Julia Berry (attended virtually)

Officers: Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Howard Anthony (Performance & Partnerships Team Leader), Jon-James Martin (Performance and Transformation Officer) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillor Roy Lees

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

16 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 15 December 2022 of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a correct record

17 Declarations of Any Interests

No interests were declared.

18 Performance Focus - Communities

Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member for Early Intervention, and Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member for Homes and Housing presented the Communities Performance Focus.

The directorate includes the following services:

- Communities,
- Housing Solutions,
- Public Protection.

The provisional outturn for Communities showed an overspend of £135k as of October 2022, giving a 7.27% variance against the current budget. This was due to the proposed pay award for 2022/23, an increase in the amount allocated towards Bed and Breakfasts and a reduction income. This was due to the NHS and Lancashire

Constabulary confirmed that they would not be contributing toward staffing costs in the Communities Team for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 periods.

A report was due to be considered at the Executive Cabinet the following week regarding the 2023-25 Community Commissioning Procurement.

Difficulties with recruitment and staffing capacity were acknowledged, particularly within Environmental Health and the Housing Solutions teams. Members thanked the staff within the Directorate for their work during difficult circumstances.

Members reviewed the performance indicator information and noted that the team have supported existing community groups, including those providing 'warm spaces'.

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 were noted, although some indicators were performing below target.

Members discussed the work undertaken regarding digital skills, support given to community groups, volunteers and refugees.

The Chorley Adaptations Grant (CAG) and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) regarding the process, budget and relating to Registered Social Landlords were considered. Other grants, relating to energy efficiency and affordable warmth were noted.

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 the Panel. The working patterns for the different teams were acknowledged.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Chair

Date