

REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 July and the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 16 June, including update on Task Group reviews.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 7 JULY 2016

LCC Health Scrutiny Committee: A & E Services at Chorley Hospital

At the invitation of the Chair and Vice of the Committee, Councillor Steve Holgate, Chair of LCC Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee attended the meeting to talk about the temporary closure of the Accident and Emergency Department at Chorley Hospital. Also in attendance was Councillor Hasina Khan as the Council's representative on that Committee

County Councillor Holgate provided the Committee with a summary of the investigation that the Health Scrutiny Committee had undertaken on the downgrading of Chorley Hospital's accident and emergency service to an urgent care centre.

The inquiry undertaken by the Health Scrutiny Committee has focused on why the change had taken place, its impact and what local hospital services would look like going forward. There had been a series of three meetings to gather evidence:

1. The Committee met with representatives of the Hospital Trust and heard about the shortage of trained staff and the use of locums. There had been a long term problem in attracting and recruiting suitably qualified staff, culminating in the decision on temporary closure. The Clinical Commissioning Group for Chorley, South Ribble and Preston had also been interviewed as the funding provider.
2. The Committee then met with the NHS Education North West (formerly known as the Deanery) who provide training places for health clinicians and whose responsibility it is to ensure there are enough trained staff coming through the system to meet future service needs. The Committee heard that only 50% of staff who undertake training actually complete it and are available once qualified, due to career changes, family commitments etc. Training places had also been reduced in recent years.

The Committee also met/heard representations from local MPs.

3. The Committee had then looked at the position going forward in attracting staff. Those looking to advance their career, would choose to apply to hospitals who provide services for trauma; paediatrics, surgery and intensive care. Chorley Hospital was not in this position and this was a clear obstacle to successful recruitment. Early August would see the Hospital deciding whether or not they had sufficient staff to re-open accident and emergency services. A request had been made for information on how the closure had impacted on other local A & E services in Preston, Wigan, Bolton and East Lancashire but this hadn't yet been received.

It was anticipated that the final report of LCC Health Scrutiny Committee, including recommendations, would be published before the end of July.

County Councillor Holgate indicated that he felt there had been a failure to put together an action plan for recruitment at an early enough stage and that there was a longer term strategy of downgrading of the hospital. Temporary closure of the service had been on medical

advice about patient safety. If the service did reopen in August there would still be questions about its longer term future.

The Committee thanked Councillors Holgate and Khan for their attendance and information. Members would await the final report of the LCC Health Scrutiny Committee and the decision of the Hospital Trust on the reopening of accident and emergency services at Chorley Hospital. A Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would potentially be held in August.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for the Year, including a Task Group Update

The Committee agreed a work programme for the year including the work of the Performance Panel and Task Groups.

The first task of the year would look at Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Safeguarding Issues. A Task Group had been established with Councillors Roy Lees (Chair) Councillors Margaret Lees; Sheila Long; Richard Toon; Kim Snape; Alistair Morwood; John Dalton; and Mark Jarnell. Reviewing this topic would also fulfil the crime and disorder scrutiny requirement for the year. The first meeting of the Task Group would take place on 2 August with Louise Elo, Head of Early Intervention and Support as lead officer.

Further areas of scrutiny were agreed as Flooding Issues across the Borough, to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee in October, with a view to potential further scrutiny by a task group. Also in addition to the longer list of potential task group topic areas it was agreed to add a review into the rollout of Superfast Broadband by BT. This was to look into claims that it was not as widely available as the provider was claiming.

Information on staff training particularly in relation to customer services was requested and would be submitted to the next meeting of the Performance Panel.

Information on the Council's approach to removal/enforcement of flyposting on lamp posts was requested to be provided to Members of the Committee.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL – 16 JUNE 2016

Performance Focus: Community Development

The Chair welcomed Councillor Beverley Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention) and Jamie Carson, Deputy Chief Executive/Director (Early Intervention and Support) to answer questions in relation to Community Development.

Members of the Panel were provided with an update on the latest position on staffing following the Council's management structure which resulted in some minor changes to the team. The Health and Wellbeing team had an additional Community Development Officer post. Get Up and Go sessions continued to attract positive levels of participation with a total of 26,642 young people attending sessions in 2015/16, which was an increase of over 20% on 2014/15.

The team continued to support local clubs and groups with 155 groups supported in 2015/16 which vary from luncheon clubs through to larger organisations such as the Prince's Trust. The total number of groups supported was lower than the same time last year (200 in 14/15) which reflected a more targeted approach and also additional support was available from within the sector, for example from the VCFS Network.

Members of the Panel discussed many aspects of the report which included:

Targeted Activities; and questioned why few activities were being arranged for those residents in the middle age group. It was explained that programme sessions were identified based on evidence available both locally and nationally. Latest figures suggested that those residents in the middle age group would already undertake some kind of regular activity. There was evidence to suggest both younger and older residents were more likely not to take part in regular activities and these groups were classed as some of the most vulnerable groups in society. It was therefore important to try to engage with these groups to prevent the feeling of isolation and encourage a more active lifestyle.

Working in Schools; and how the Council engaged with them. The Panel was informed that the Council worked closely with some schools, but not others. Schools choose which service provider they want to work with, even if that was a neighbouring authority. There was a further discussion about the need for providers and schools to share information to ensure that those children and families in need of assistance are identified and supported effectively.

Chorley Time Credits; was hailed a great success. The Time Credits programme had delivered successful outcomes in terms of increased volunteering and benefits for communities in Chorley. It was acknowledged that Chorley Time Credits was a positive and proactive means of encouraging and growing volunteering effort, supporting and strengthening links between existing volunteering groups in Chorley as well as encouraging and providing opportunities for new groups to get established. The Panel was reassured that management arrangement of Chorley Time Credits had been put in place for when the Health and Wellbeing Team took ownership of the scheme.

Members of the Panel called for better communications around the success of the Time Credits and that up to date information on the number of organisations for where Time Credits can be spent locally be well publicised.

Organisational Plan 2016/17

Members of the Panel received a report by the Director of Policy and Governance on the single organisational business plan for 2016/17 and to review the programme of projects which had been planned for delivery over the coming financial year.

All projects within the 2015/16 organisational plan had been received and were either complete or to be carried forward with a future date for completion identified. The plan included a significant number of large and capital investment items along with projects phased over multiple years to deliver a sustained impact and therefore 20 items were taken forward in 2016/17.

The plan included 55 projects which had been approved through the Corporate Strategy process, identified for budget investment in 2016/17 or had been carried forward from 2015/16. In total, the 2016/17 plan incorporated 16 Corporate Strategy projects, 31 Budget Growth projects and 8 Business Improvement projects including:

- Development of a new Buckshaw Community Centre
- Yarrow Valley car park
- Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy
- Transport plan for Chorley
- Digital access and inclusion
- Delivery of Community Action Plans

- Reform public services in Chorley

Members of the Panel raised questions about various aspects of the report, in particular:

- The Yarrow Valley project;
- The management transfer of the new Buckshaw Village Community Centre, from the Council
- School place projections project
- Food banks
- Friday Street project
- Market Walk Extension

COUNCILLOR JOHN WALKER
CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE