

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30th June 2015

PRESENT – Councillor S. Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Culley, Kane, Knowles, Lister, Lyonette, Mills, M. Nicholson, E. A. Richmond, Storr and Tostevin.
(11)

APOLOGIES –

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ann Workman, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning, and Kevin Kelly, Head of Service, Learning Disability and Mental Health.

AH1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH2. TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS - RESOLVED – That meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 a.m. for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16.

AH3. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31st March 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

AH4. INTRODUCTION TO SERVICES PROVIDED BY HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE – (a) Overview of Housing Services – The Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services, provided an overview which outlined the services provided by the Housing Services Division. The overview detailed the structure of the Division, the key Housing Plans in place, the composition of the Council's housing stock, the breakdown of income and expenditure in relation to the Housing Revenue Account, the Council's new-build schemes, asset management, and housing management and the applications process.

Particular emphasis was placed on homelessness, and the Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2015-17, and the Lifeline services provided by the Council.

Members expressed concerns in terms of the forthcoming introduction of the Universal Credit, and were keen to receive more information at future meetings in terms of its implementation.

(b) Overview of Adult Social Care Services - The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, provided Members with a presentation which highlighted the importance of Social Care. The Committee was informed that Social Care responds to a wide

range of needs, aims to help people to live as independently as possible, protects people from harm in vulnerable situations, balances risks with rights, and offers essential help at times of crisis.

The Care Act, which came into effect on 1st April 2015, was the most significant change to Adult Social Care in 60 years, with the focus of the Act being on supporting people to maintain their independence and take control of their care and support. The Act will bring about major changes in the way that Social Care is funded (though some of these changes will not be implemented until April 2016), introduce a new approach to assessments and the provision of services, a new emphasis on 'well-being' and new responsibilities for early intervention and prevention.

The Committee expressed the wish to continue to receive regular update reports, in order to monitor the implementation of the Care Act, and remain abreast of ongoing developments.

RESOLVED – That the content of the presentations be noted.

AH5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION – QUARTER 4 – The Head of Organisational Planning gave a detailed graphical presentation on the performance management information in relation to those service delivery indicators within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee as at Quarter 4.

The areas given consideration reflected elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and these were 'Healthy and Independent', 'Enough support when needed', 'Corporate Health', 'A place designed to thrive', 'A safe and caring community', and 'More people active and involved'. Members welcomed the information.

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted.

AH6. MEMBERS' TOOLKIT - The Head of Organisational Planning reported on the progress made in relation to the development of a Members' Toolkit which would assist them in their community roles. It was reported that the next stages in its development was to consult with Members to ascertain their views and input and that a working group, comprising a mix of Scrutiny, Cabinet, new, existing and rural Members would be established, and it was requested that a representative from this Scrutiny Committee to serve on that Group.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Storr be appointed to represent this Scrutiny Committee on the Working Group.

AH7. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration

be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year.

In addition to the items which had already been included within the submitted report, other items which were raised for inclusion on the work programme were Welfare Reforms and Housing.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and the items raised be added to the work programme.