

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Scrutiny Management Team

Since the report to the last Council meeting the Scrutiny Management Team has met once, on 26th January.

At the meeting –

- We received a presentation from Geoff Whitehead, the Council's Lead for Community Safety on the work of the Community Safety Partnership which included crime figures to December, 2015 and details on the priorities for Pendle. We were interested to hear of a Partnership Plan that was being developed to address the challenges that the Partnership faced over the next three years. The plan included working with vulnerable people and those involved with substance misuse, which links in with two scrutiny reviews currently being carried out by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel.
- We also received an update on performance against the four main objectives in our Countryside Access Strategy. We were reminded that our agreement with Lancashire County Council (LCC) for us to carry out public rights of way management had ended w.e.f. 1st April, 2015, along with annual funding for the function. We have continued to work on rights of way on an informal agreement but are working on establishing a new agreement or alternative for us to deliver the statutory public rights of way duties.
- We continued our review of the Council's policies for safeguarding vulnerable people, by commenting on the Council's Safeguarding Adults Policy before we all considered it at the Special Budget Council meeting in February. As you will recall, we were all involved in the development of the Policy, whether it was in your role as an appropriate portfolio holder or by attending the presentation prior to the Council meeting in December.
- We continue to monitor progress on actions from previous scrutiny reviews. Following on from our review on promoting Pendle, we were happy to hear of the great success of Stage 2 of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race which was held in September. This has been followed by the development of a cycling legacy strategy which we will be viewing at our next meeting.
- The Team carried out a light touch review on the process of issuing Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which have been introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Tim Horsley, the Council's Community Protection Co-ordinator attended our meeting and provided us with information on the various sections of the Act and the parts of the legislation that impacted on the Council.

We learnt that PSPOs are available to the district council only and replace Gating Orders, Dog Control Orders and Designated Public Place Orders (alcohol control zones) with a single power. CPNs replace Litter Clearing Notices, Street Litter Control Notices and Defacement Removal Notices and can be used by the Council, Police and a person designated by the Council such as officers of housing providers. However, the Police and housing providers will not be taking up use of the power.

This has obviously increased the volume of work to the Council, as have various proposals regarding PSPOs, some of which are to be in place from April, 2016.

The information received answered all our questions with regard to the scrutiny review and we therefore concluded the review in that one meeting.

- Councillor David Whipp presented an update on the work of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel. He told us of the latest financial position for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2016/17 and the decision to increase the council tax precept by 1.99% following a public and stakeholder consultation.

He told us of future work and agreed to report on progress to future meetings of our Team.

- Finally, we considered further suggestions received for our work programme. Following a suggestion from a member of the public, we are to receive a briefing note on this Council's response to the December, 2015 flooding incidents, to our March meeting. We have also agreed the following reviews for our 2016/17 work programme –
 - (i) Behaviour of enforcement officers (formerly known as bailiffs)
 - (ii) Littering (taking into account the work of previous panels on litter and detritus)
 - (iii) The impact of upper tier authorities on planning matters (subject to the outcome of a scrutiny review being carried out by LCC)

Further suggestions are to be considered at our next meeting. I hope you have taken the opportunity to put forward your ideas.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel has met twice, once in January and once in February.

At the January meeting –

- We welcomed three representatives from the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) who gave a presentation on the various aspects of their jobs. Firstly we heard from the Community Resuscitation Manager who provided details of the Community First Responders (CFRs) based in the Pendle area. These are volunteers trained to respond to emergency calls in their local area. We were told that the number of CFRs in Pendle was currently low and that new

volunteers were actively being recruited. If you feel this is something for you, details can be found via the following link - [Community First Responder](#)

We also heard from a Community Specialist Paramedic. The role has recently been developed and is being trialled across 12 communities within the region, of which Pendle is one. At the time of the meeting, the success of the trial was still to be evaluated. However, the view of those present was that the role of Community Specialist Paramedic should continue and ideally, more be recruited.

- We began our review of mental health in the community, care homes and mental health wards by welcoming representatives of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG), who gave a presentation on the mental health services available in East Lancashire.

We were told of the national model of stepped care for those accessing the service which ranged from low intensity interventions for mild/moderate cases to high intensity therapy for those with moderate/severe conditions. We also learned about the assessment and treatment teams that provide a gateway into the services.

- The Panel also commenced a second review, by gathering information on the drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision in East Lancashire. We began by receiving statistics on alcohol and drug misuse in Lancashire and the services provided by LCC.
- In previous reports I have told you about the ongoing discussions with regard to finding the most suitable location for a Changing Places Toilet in Pendle. I am pleased to tell you that, at the request of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel, consideration has been given to a facility at Stanley Villas, Albert Road, Colne. The premises have been found to be suitable and approval for the scheme has been confirmed.

At the February meeting -

- We received an update from East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT) on the integrated care provided by way of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT) and an Intensive Home Support Service (IHSS).

We were very interested to hear of the introduction of a 'Front Door Team' based in the Emergency Department. This team carries out a joint assessment of the patient to determine if the care provided by the IHSS could avoid hospital admission. This has proved very successful and it is hoped that it can be extended across Pennine Lancashire.

- We continued our review on mental health by listening to a presentation from Access Ability CIC, a registered community interest company that offers community learning opportunities to unemployed, disabled people living in deprived areas, volunteers and hard to reach individuals.

They offer courses on mental health first aid and youth mental health first aid which aim to enable participants to gain a wider understanding of some issues

surrounding mental health and how and why positive and negative mental health affect business, young people and organisations.

We were also told of two ongoing pilot schemes. One scheme is the delivery of workshops designed to promote mental wellbeing in local communities. The second pilot involves working with a school in Blackburn, training the teachers and pastoral staff in the First Aid Training or awareness, in addition to offering community courses for parents, local residents and governors etc.

The Panel agreed with the view that mental health awareness training should sit within the national curriculum, particularly with regard to wellbeing.

In addition to the presentation, we received some statistical information from Jobcentre Plus and hope to receive a further breakdown to our next meeting.

- Our review of drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision continued with a presentation from representatives of the local substance misuse service Inspire Integrated Substance Misuse Service (East Lancashire). We learnt that Pendle alcohol related indicators are significantly worse than England and Pendle also has a significantly higher rate of opiate and/or crack use.

These are obviously worrying statistics, but we are encouraged by the work of Inspire who provide invaluable support for those in need. Their new model of service places a big focus on outreach and engagement, with a range of public access points where people can self-refer.

Our review will continue in 2016/17.

- We also received news that the fracture clinic at Burnley General Hospital has been moved, on a trial basis, to the Royal Blackburn Hospital. We are told that this is to address the issue of patients waiting up to 14 days for an appointment at the Burnley clinic.

The six month trial commenced on 1st September, 2015 and completed at the end of February, 2016.

We had a number of questions and concerns and have therefore put our views to the ELCCG and ELHT. We expect to receive an update to a future meeting of our Panel.

Councillor Christian Wakeford,
Chairman, Scrutiny Management Team
14th March, 2016