

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

PRESENT –

Councillor K. Turner – Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

*N. Ahmed
W. Blackburn
S. Cockburn-Price
D. Whalley*

Also present

Inspector Andy Winter

Officers in attendance

*G. Whitehead Community Protection and Localities Manager
L. Rowland Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Adam, D. Lord, N. McCollum, N. McEvoy, B. Newman and S. Wicks.)



The following person attended and spoke on the item indicated –

Michael Sutcliffe Community Safety Partnership – Policing in Pendle Minute No. 27

24. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and that whipping declarations were also required.

25. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Policing in Pendle

At the last meeting, Members received information on recent crime and disorder trends. The

overview showed a continued rise in all types of crime within the borough, which reflected increases across Lancashire. Due to a number of concerns, a request was made for the Local Policing Inspector and the Council's Community Protection and Localities Manager to attend this meeting of the Team to discuss the issue in more detail.

Inspector Andy Winter began by providing the most recent statistics on recorded crime, which illustrated that 'all crime' and certain categories were still on the increase. As before this was consistent with Lancashire although it was noted that, on the whole, Pendle had less increases than some areas of the county.

He explained that there had been a change in how crimes were reported, and that, in considering the figures, many factors had to be taken into account.

Significant budget cuts had resulted in a reduction in police officers. This had led to a change to the policing model and left certain areas of policing unsustainable. There had also been a change to the demand on the service, with extra resources needed for things such as mental health, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and modern slavery/human trafficking.

Deployment of Police Support Units (PSUs) to the recent fracking demonstrations in Fylde had also resulted in a reduction of officers working in Pendle.

When allocating resources, an assessment was made on a risk and threat basis, and allocated to those issues that had the most significant impact on the community. Violent crime was a priority area, but difficult to target.

The Council's Community Protection and Localities Manager continued by providing information on the work of the Community Safety Partnership. Particular reference was made to –

- Transforming Lives – an integrated team of various agencies that supported high demand vulnerable individuals, who very often had complex needs
- Cases of domestic violence/abuse, which were on the increase
- White Ribbon Campaign 2017 (working to end violence against women) which would be launched on 3rd October
- Burglary Reduction Programme, which was ongoing
- The continuation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) process
- Hate crime – an East Lancashire meeting had concluded that extra focus was needed on hate crime as it was estimated that approximately 80% of cases went unreported. As a result, a Working Group had been set up to discuss how to improve the reporting of hate crime. A hate crime awareness raising week would also take place in October
- Fireworks – following discussion at the recent Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meeting, a Task and Finish Group would be arranged to discuss the indiscriminate use of fireworks and the damaging effects on the community
- Rural Mounted Volunteers Scheme – the scheme which helped the police prevent and detect rural crime in the Ribble Valley would soon be operating in Pendle following the CSP agreeing funding

Following the update, a discussion was held about general crime and disorder in the area and the overall consequence of police cutbacks.

In response to a question from Mr Sutcliffe about managing Nelson road closures for the Remembrance Day parade in November, Inspector Winter advised that he would do everything he

could to support the main parade.

28. REVIEW MONITORING

(a) Mental Health Care

A monitoring report on the scrutiny review of mental health care in the community, care homes and mental health wards was submitted for information.

In respect of the Local Authorities Mental Health Challenge, Councillor Wayne Blackburn, the Council's Disability and Mental Health Champion, advised that funding had been secured for an extra two years. He also reported that it had been agreed in principle to host the Annual General Meeting in Pendle, possibly in March 2018. This would bring together Mental Health Champions from across the country and include key speakers on mental health.

RESOLVED

That a further monitoring report be submitted in six months' time.

(b) Drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision

A monitoring report on the scrutiny review of drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision in East Lancashire was submitted for information.

It was noted that Lancashire Wellbeing was the main partner used by Liberata's Customer Services staff in helping vulnerable customers.

RESOLVED

That a representative of the Lancashire Wellbeing service be invited to attend a future meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel to provide information on the services it delivers.

(c) Youth Engagement

A monitoring report on the scrutiny review of youth engagement was submitted for information.

It was reported that a further four members had been appointed to the Youth Engagement Working Group, bringing the total membership to seven.

It was agreed that the Working Group would be the most appropriate forum to receive the proposed presentation from the external organisation that specialised in fostering youth engagement in politics.

RESOLVED

That a further monitoring report be submitted in six months' time.

29. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on 22nd August, 2017 were submitted for information.

30. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) THEMATIC GROUPS REPORT

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on progress with the Sustainable Communities Strategy Thematic Groups for the period June 2016 to June 2017. The report provided an update on the main theme groups of health and wellbeing; children and young people; economic development; and community safety.

A discussion was held regarding the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) referred to under health and wellbeing. Councillor Wayne Blackburn, the Council's co-optee on the Lancashire County Council (LCC) Health Scrutiny Committee advised that this topic had been discussed at the LCC meeting earlier that day. The Committee had been advised that a new draft of the STP would be produced in the next couple of months.

Members had concerns over alleged comments that the current STP was 'undeliverable' and expressed frustration at the apparent lack of district council involvement, with the exception of representation on the Pennine Lancashire System Leaders' Forum.

The Team also discussed elements of the Pendle Jobs and Growth Strategy, which had been a topic covered by the Vision Board in the last 12 months.

RESOLVED

That further information be sought from Pendle Council's representatives on the Pennine Lancashire System Leaders' Forum on local delivery plans.

31. ANNUAL EMISSIONS REPORT

The Strategic Director submitted the Council's annual emissions report for information. The report provided details on emissions for 2016/17 compared with 2015/16.

It was noted that both gas and electricity consumption had increased, despite a rationalisation of building stock over the reporting period and a reduction in staffing levels.

RESOLVED

That the Strategic Director be asked to provide further information to explain the reasons for the increases.

32. WORK PLAN

The Team's work plan 2017/18 was submitted for information.

33. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1st October, 2017 was submitted for consideration.

CHAIRMAN_____