

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2016

A MEETING of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2016 at 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor John Mounsey

Vice Chair – Charlie Hogarth

Councillors Richard A Jones, Jane Kidd and Craig Sahman

Invitee: - Paul O'Brien

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Rachael Blake and Jane Cox

		<u>ACTION</u>
12	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.</u>	
	Apologies were received from Councillors Rachel Hodson, John Cooke and Cynthia Ransome.	
13	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u>	
	None	
14	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	Councillor Jane Kidd declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 by virtue of being an employee of SYCIL that could be commissioned to deliver a service. Councillor K. Rodgers declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 by virtue of being a Member of the Co-operative Party and also a member of the Co-operative Group which has a link to the Co-operative Enterprise Hub.	
15	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS.</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	

TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME.

Kim Curry, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing attended the meeting to provide an overview of Adult Services Transformation Programme. Members were reminded that the presentation had been previously circulated on the 9th March 2016 and therefore Members should already be in receipt of the information.

The presentation included the following areas;

- National and Local Picture
- The Policy Context
- Adults – performance
- Where are we now?
- How will we do it?
- Immediate Business Improvement Projects
- Next Steps

In terms of what this would mean to the Council, it was stressed how important it was to get a strategy in place to prepare in view of the pressures and demands being placed on local authorities.

Following the presentation, the Committee entered into a discussion which included the following areas: -

Residential/Nursing - Reference was made to the performance information, in particular how many were in Doncaster residential/nursing homes compared to Yorkshire and Humber and all of England. Members were advised that with strong management action in place the current or projected figure may exceed the target of 909. Members were assured that those people who needed residential care would receive it.

Direct Payments - It was recognised that there was work to be undertaken on direct payments and ensuring that we provided the best range of services for people. Concern was raised that there was an element of fraud risk with direct payments but Members were assured that this was minimal and no greater than with any other provider. It was commented that users of social care services in Doncaster needed it to be easier to use.

One Member questioned why direct payment support was now in-house. Members were informed that steps to improve this area were being taken and included looking at other local authorities’ processes such as Oldham who had been successful with their approach. It was commented that the decision to provide this function had occurred before the current Directors time but they did support comments that this service should not be provided in-house as it was not a truly independent service.

Members were informed that there had been a similar picture shown nationally in terms of which barriers were preventing direct payments from improving. These included reasons such as how traditional social care practices were still being used or simply that individuals had not found it easy to use direct payments.

Community Based Services – Members were informed that consideration was being given as to how the figures could be reduced but that there was expectation that the target would be met.

It was raised that people were being given more packages of care at home and acknowledged that there were possibly too many services being provided to people who could manage with a lower level service.

Immediate Business Improvement Projects (Digital) – In respect of improving digital ways of accessing services, concern was raised about the costs incurred to some residents having to pay for the internet. It was acknowledged that some residents might not be able to or confident enough to access information digitally. It was accepted that there would need to be alternative methods available to allow those residents not accessing services digitally to be able to access them through other means. It was also raised that the number of libraries providing digital access through computers had reduced.

New Organisational Structure (VR/VER) – Some Members raised concerns in respect of VR/VER being started as part of the process prior to developing a new organisational structure (due to be in place by September 2016). Firstly, it was questioned whether VR/VER should be taken through prior to the structure being put in place. Members were assured that it was about looking to avoid unnecessary stress and acknowledgement for those who had expressed an interest in leaving the authority. It was questioned if the service would be sustainable if staff started leaving through VR/VER.

Eligibility Level Of Care – Thresholds – It was explained that traditionally the Council set the decision where to set eligibility criteria. This had since changed though with the introduction of the Care Act and was therefore now set nationally. It was considered that such decisions took us away from the prevention issue. It was questioned how many people were now eligible within National Guidelines compared to when the threshold had been set by the Council. Members assured that it had been handled through a review process in a personalised way.

Comments were made that we could support those adults in need of care in a better way and that health resources could be better directed. It was shared that Public Health colleagues had been very supportive and that at Doncaster Council there had been better integration with public health than with other local authorities. Members were informed that discussions had been held with St Leger about a strategy for

accommodation for older people. It was added that other private landlords would be engaged with once there is a clearer direction of travel.

Commissioning – Members were informed that a skills audit was being undertaken to assess skills and see how the Council can configure resources to utilise better formal and informal relationships with providers. It was added that by having better relationships with providers helped to resolve issues at a lower level. Members were informed that there had been two new additional posts established within commissioning to bring in more expertise within the Council with improved outputs. Steps were also being taken to look at how we can build in the ‘local flavour’ through procurement such as including within the tender evaluation how local and social value can be brought in through Adults Health and Wellbeing contracts. Concerns were raised that when commissioning out, the priority would become about cost rather than quality.

Third Sector – There was a brief discussion about the capability and the potential of third sector organisations and social enterprises, such as the co-operative which would need additional support. It was asked whether the Council had taken steps to speak to such organisations and Members were informed that although it was not at that stage yet.

Members were informed that efforts were being made to build upon what is there to make it fit for purpose. It was added that although the Council had not been particularly strong at market development, the two new roles within commissioning would assist that process.

Budget Gap – Members sought clarification on the budget gap and the issue of 2% paying towards living care cost changes.

Day Care Services – It was stated that some were not providing a quality service. It was advised that different types of options were needed for people to spend their daytime hours. Members were informed that there was a need to look at the best way supporting those with additional needs such as learning difficulties.

Prevention – It was noted that the focus for such changes was not just about financial means but it was about looking at what was best through more modern approaches. It was explained that the financial profile would come later after better and wider opportunities have been implemented. It was accepted that underpinning this would be to build capacity in communities and enable users to access more options. It was emphasised that those with more complex needs would still be able to access the services that they required.

Personal Care – It was added that the tender for Care and Support at home, would look to contract for a more flexible service with a more locality base and aim to have more of an influence about what services

were offered.

Consultation – It was observed that there were a number of parties trying to reach the same group of people for different things and that as a Council we need to consider in particular, how we access hard to reach groups. It was commented that it was about changing the mindset of individuals and encouraging them at an earlier age to think ahead.

In reference to the Adults performance information provided, clarification was sought on what had happened within the decline from the Community Based Services figures between 2014/15 and 2015/16. Members were informed that this could be for a number of reasons such as the individual might have died, that different types of services were now provided, the individual might not now be able to access day services anymore or simply no longer did not want to attend.

Assisted Funerals (SAPAT) – Members were informed that Doncaster assisted with 300 funerals compared to neighbouring authorities such as Sheffield who undertook 13 and have a larger population than Doncaster. It was explained that this was the reason behind why this area was being reviewed.

Information, Advice and Wellbeing Capacity Building – Members were informed that links were being made within area teams and work was being undertaken to improve the digital connect support system. Members sought assurance that that it was not just digital systems that were being relied upon to be used by those who were trying to access these services.

Ageing Population – It was observed that the biggest difference in communities and individuals was attitude. It was commented that we should look at how older people were making a contribution and treat it more like a celebration of age rather than the more negative perceptions that are often made.

Councillor Rachel Blake, a Member of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel referred to the Panel's proposed workplan and that there may be two key themes pursued including Transformation and Health Inequalities.

The Chair commented that it had been a very informative presentation and requested that for future meetings Members would be provided with copies prior to the meeting.

A Member commented on the lack of information within the consultation section. Members requested that future reports included this information to ensure that the scrutiny process was made as robust and informative as possible.

	<p>Reference was made to the 10 Immediate Business Improvement projects and how they would be further monitored through the scrutiny process. It was explained that these were taken through the Council's Adults and Improvement Board and that further discussions needed to take place as to how they could be monitored effectively through OSMC and/or the Health Scrutiny Panel.</p>	
17	<p><u>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES REVIEW.</u></p>	
	<p>Councillor Neil Gethin, Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Panel Number introduced to the Committee, the Panels review 'Children with Disabilities'. It was explained that the purpose of this review was to consider the support services and Council respite in place for children with disabilities. Members were referred to the recommendations made within the report.</p> <p>A Member spoke about examples of how some school might be seen as discriminating in relation to children with disabilities in regards to attendance. The Assistant Director for Jo Moxon, Assistant Director Learning and Achievement explained to Members the difference of recording attendance due to illness and conditions but emphasised that the discriminatory point about severe disabilities or long term illness should not be discriminated against and in those instances could be referred to Chair of Governors.</p> <p>The Vice Chair of Children and Young People spoke to the Committee about the treatment of autistic children within schools. Reference was made to findings from the review around Looked after Children and how for example, at North Ridge there had been a project undertaken with Next and considered whether there were any other ways that this could be expanded across to other business within Doncaster. It was commented that it was about changing mind-sets towards young people with disabilities and what they had to offer.</p> <p>It was commented that the Bentley Training Centre could be utilised more and it was explained that it was not about training but more about getting young people into work experience through learning life skills. Examples of this were being able to travel on a bus or go to a bank. It was added that although this was useful when it came with children with certain disabilities, it was also about retaining or remembering this information. Concern was raised that one of the challenges with recruiting young people with disabilities was society providing them with job opportunities.</p> <p>The Chair of OSMC welcomed the recommendations and it was questioned whether an Action Plan could be provided to monitor the recommendations and progress made within the review. Members were reminded that this could be included as parts of the 2016/17 years workplan as the Children with Disabilities Social Work team will</p>	

	<p>be transferred over to the trust and they already provide a quarterly update to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>In terms of Looked After Children, it was noted that within this area it was our job to notify concerns in respect of providers and that the same applied with Looked After Children in out of other authority placements. It was advised that in terms of authority support for children with disabilities that this was provided up to 25 years old children in education as this was a shared responsibility with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Members advised that there was information on the website regarding the local offer. A briefing on this was offered to be provided to Members including the key contact information.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the stresses placed on academies. Clarification was given about having right of accessing information regarding children with SEN and it was confirmed that academies have cooperated. It was added that there was a new Ofsted inspection process in respect of the quality of services with SEN and that the way academies deal with SEN will form a part of that process. Members were informed that there was a white paper on the changes to Local Authority duties making it clear that we have that duty and advocacy for those children who are vulnerable.</p> <p>The Vice Chair expressed his thanks to Members, Officers, parents and organisations for their support and input into the review.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED that:</u></p> <p>a) The Committee agreed the recommendations and report attached</p>	
18	<p><u>REGENERATION AND HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL - PLACE MARKETING - DEVELOPMENT OF THE DONCASTER BRAND.</u></p>	
	<p>Councillor Craig Sahman, Chair of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel introduced to the Committee, the Panels review 'Place Marketing – Development of the Doncaster Brand'. It was explained that the focus this year had been on 'regeneration' and the purpose of this review was to look at Place Marketing and in particular, what could be done to improve the Doncaster's brand regionally and internationally as well as to how we could improve our own internal understanding. Members were referred to the 18 recommendations made within the report and how the review had been conducted through focusing on 4 key areas Work, Play, Learn/Skills and Rest with a number of key partners and external organisations being involved.</p> <p>It was expressed that the review has been an 'eye-opener' as to how fantastic Doncaster is what has been achieved to reach where we are</p>	

	<p>today as well as what needs to be done to take us to the next level.</p> <p>Members were informed that work was already being undertaken in taking the next steps in developing to Doncaster brand.</p> <p>The Vice Chair of Children and Young People spoke about benefits of Sandal Park and the Council having no plan with greenspaces. Members were reminded that Doncaster is the biggest metropolitan council in the Borough. Members were advised that the review was a strategic look at regeneration in the Borough and how to get people into Doncaster and developing the Doncaster brand. It was stated that on this basis the Panel was not able to look at everything.</p> <p>Reference was made by the Vice Chair in respect of recommendations 15, 16, 17 and 18 which had arisen from the Learn/Skills meeting and the barriers and opportunities that existed. There was also a mention of recommendations 4 and 11 in reference following Members attendance on the familiarisation tour aimed at promoting the Borough's regeneration and development opportunities to potential investors.</p> <p>Members were informed that within the Members Seminar programme was one on Major Projects and the forthcoming work of the Education Skills Commission.</p> <p>The Chair of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel expressed his thanks to Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Members, Officers, parents and organisations for their support and input into the review.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED that:</u></p> <p>a) The Committee agreed the recommendations and report attached</p>	
19	<p><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2015/16 UPDATE AND PROGRESS - APRIL, 2016.</u></p>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer presented the current Overview and Scrutiny work plan highlighting areas of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels since the last meeting.</p> <p>Members were informed that workplan topics were being drafted for Overview and Scrutiny 2016/17 and that any Member suggestions that had been put forward would be included during that time.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED that:</u></p> <p>i. the 2016/2017 Overview and Scrutiny workplan, be noted.</p>	