

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Tuesday 7 September 2010 at 6.00pm in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Panel Members Present

- Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)
- Councillor S. Coughlan
- Councillor P. Bott
- Councillor C. Creaney
- Councillor E. Hughes
- Councillor K. Sears
- Councillor D. Shires

Officers Present

- Keith Stone – Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
- Chris Holliday – Head of Leisure & Community Health
- Ben Percival – Sports and Leisure Service Manager
- Lynne Hughes – Area Manager – Community Safety
- Steph Simcox – Service Accounting and Financial Training Manager
- Nick Alamanos – Partnership and Performance Officer
- Craig Goodall – Acting Principal Scrutiny Officer

30/10 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors O. Bennett and R. Martin.

31/10 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor E. Hughes substituted for Councillor O. Bennett for the duration of the meeting.

32/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

33/10 MINUTES

Minute 24/10 'Apologies' 'P. Shires' be replaced with 'D. Shires'.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes, as amended, of the meeting held on 28 June and 3 August 2010, copies having been previously circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

(annexed)

34/10 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WORKING GROUP – MONITORING

The Panel considered the work that had been undertaken following the recommendations of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group (ASBWG) in April 2009. The ASBWG had been established by the former Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

The Area Manager (Community Safety) reported on activity that had taken place since the ASBWG recommendations had been reported to Cabinet in September 2009.

The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- It had not been possible to implement the lead recommendation to establish an integrated borough wide anti-social behaviour unit using the resources of all partners. In the absence of this, partners were developing new ways to improve the co-ordination and sharing of information through the procurement of shared computer systems and standardised records and reporting processes.
- The new Neighbourhood Management arrangements were expected to play a key role in tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the borough through an increasingly co-ordinated area based approach by local partners. Each of the six local areas would have an individual ASB officer assigned to it.
- Members gave examples of ASB being caused by social housing tenants. The Panel felt that more should be done by registered social landlords to tackle ASB amongst their tenants. This should include the option of eviction if required.
- Members noted that there were a small number of families causing high levels of ASB. These families often had additional complex needs that needed tackling. The Panel discussed the idea of providing intense and targeted support to these families and the possible benefits that could be realised through providing support and preventing future problems.
- The same powers regarding ASB enforcement applied to privately renting tenants.
- Members also expressed frustration in the response of the Police to ASB reports, whilst noting the need to prioritise the use of resources.
- The Panel reported that they were not receiving feedback from the ASB Unit on ASB problems and activity to tackle it that was ongoing in their wards.
- The ASB Unit were working closely with the Integrated Young Peoples Support Service to operate diversionary activities for young people including sport.
- Domehawk camera resources were currently being reviewed along with the possibility of upgrading the current resources to improve the quality of evidence for prosecutions.

RESOLVED:

THAT:

1. a pilot project take place to provide co-ordinated intervention and support to individuals and family groups that are known to have a range of challenging needs;

and;

2. the reported problems with Members receiving feedback regarding anti-social behaviour activity in their wards be investigated.

35/10 CONSIDERATION OF ACTIVITY TOWARDS ACHIEVING NATIONAL INDICATOR 8 'ADULT PARTICIPATION IN SPORT'

The Panel considered activity being undertaken to achieve national indicator 8 'adult participation in sport' (percentage of Walsall adults undertaking 3 x 30 minute exercise sessions per week).

The Sports and Leisure Service Manager explained how the indicator was measured, the current position with the target and how this compared to national performance.

The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- 6 million exercise sessions were required to meet the target. Therefore there was a high dependency on the majority of these exercise sessions being delivered by individuals or through the voluntary and community sector – for example local sports clubs.
- The data provided by the indicator was considered valuable as it illustrated the high levels of inactivity in the borough. Most other local areas data showed local residents undertook between 1 and 2 exercise sessions a week whereas in Walsall the majority of people surveyed did not complete any exercise.
- Members considered the cost of using sports facilities to be a barrier to local people. It was explained that data from the survey was analysed to identify poorly performing areas so that targeted interventions, such as concessionary fees, could be introduced.
- It was noted that in order to tackle the high levels of inactivity in the borough local residents would be required to make lifestyle changes.
- Walsall had been in the top 20 nationally for use of free swimming. Despite the withdrawal of government funding to support this activity free swimming was continuing until March 2011 through partnership funding.
- It was suggested that further work could be undertaken to utilise the voluntary and community sector in Walsall.
- It was suggested that school sports facilities could be opened up for use by the public to increase participation.
- The Council supported voluntary sports clubs and provided quality accreditation. There was a register of local sports and leisure groups

available.

RESOLVED:

THAT:

- 1. the detailed analysis of sports participation across the borough be circulated to the Panel for information;**
 - 2. the register of sports clubs in the borough be circulated to the Panel for information and updating;**
- and;**
- 3. Members be informed of the costs of hiring, including any concessionary rates, bowling greens, football pitches and cricket pitches.**

36/10 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Panel were informed of the current position with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the abolition of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and the implications this has on the LAA.

The Partnerships and Performance Officer explained that the coalition government had abolished CAA as part of their drive to reduce the burden of data collection on the public sector. This included the cancellation of the local place survey which was essential for the collection of data to demonstrate performance in a number of key perception based indicators contained in the LAA. These indicators were now considered undeliverable. He also explained that the performance reward grant for successful LAA performance had been withdrawn by the Government.

37/10 QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL MONITORING POSITION FOR 2010/11

Members were informed of the predicted revenue and capital position for 2010/11 based on performance for quarter 1 (April – June 2010) for services within the Panels remit.

The Service Accounting and Financial Training Manager reported that a revenue underspend of £7,000 was currently predicted following action planning to mitigate a potential overspend. A capital underspend of £3.8m was currently predicted. This cash would carry forward to future years if it remained unspent.

38/10 LEISURE CENTRES AND LIBRARIES WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED:

THAT:

1. the terms of reference for the Leisure Centres and Libraries Working Group be approved;

2. Councillor K. Sears replace Councillor D. Shires on the Leisure Centres and Libraries Working Group;

and;

3. Councillor Louise Harrison be appointed Lead Member of the Leisure Centres and Libraries Working Group.

39/10 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered their work programme and the latest version of Cabinet's Forward Plan of key decisions.

After a short debate Members decided to retain the items on their work programme that involved monitoring activity towards the achievement of national indicators.

40/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 14 October 2010.

The meeting terminated at 7.42 p.m.

Signed:

Date: