

Health @ Wellbeing

Chair's Report for 2nd Dec

The Leader of the Council circulated an update from the Cabinet on action taken on items raised by Committee members at the last meeting on 9 September and all members would receive an invitation to attend the local Dementia Champion training with the aim that a Member Champion would be recruited.

The Chief Executive submitted a report and made a presentation which updated members on the recent statutory guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help councils carry out their overview and scrutiny functions effectively. This was supported by the launch of the recent Good Scrutiny Guide by the CfPS.

The committee agreed:

1. That the requirements within the Statutory Guidance and the recommendations within the CfPS Good Scrutiny Guide be noted
2. That current practice be benchmarked against the Statutory Guidance and that the commissioning of external support be explored.
3. That an Action Plan be developed based on the recommendations within the Statutory Guidance and the Good Scrutiny Guide.
4. That an "Executive-Scrutiny Protocol" be developed in accordance with the guidelines.
5. That training for Scrutiny Members be commissioned to build on their current skills in undertaking effective scrutiny reviews.

In response to a request from the committee to scrutinise the impact of domestic violence initiatives, the Partnerships Vulnerability Officer at the Borough Council, the Commissioning and Partnership Manager at the Staffordshire Commissioners Office and CI Claire Langley, NPT Commander, Newcastle Staffordshire Police submitted a joint report which updated members on arrangements for the co-ordination and delivery of domestic abuse services in the Borough as part of the Staffordshire conurbation.

New Era was commissioned to support all those affected by domestic abuse and provided consistent provision across the County and City areas by way of a contract value of £1,930,000 per annum. As a result of increased demand, extra funding had gone into the service and waiting times had decreased significantly. The Chair thanked the Commissioner for his diligence in ensuring that funding was directed to the service. It was agreed that a further report would be submitted to this Committee in 12 months' time, with a request that the report contain appropriate data to allow detailed scrutiny.

The Space scheme report was submitted by the Senior Partnerships Officer, the funding (£21,891.84) was split as below:

- Jubilee2 Gym Passes (£9,444.97);
- Bee Active (£3,936.87);
- Staffordshire Clubs for Young People (£2,640);
- Streetgames (£3,920);
- Time4Sport (£1,950).
- A further 100 8 -17 year old young people identified/referred by professionals in need of positive intervention to divert them away from engaging in anti-social behaviour were given free Jubilee2 gym passes.

The total attendance of young people for the SPACE scheme in 2019 was 6229.

The report went on to evaluate and offer positive learning including the advantages of early advertisement and publicity of the SPACE scheme and also the extension to the geographical area for acceptance of referrals which had led to greater uptake and positive benefits together with co-ordination of SPACE activities which had ensured the best use of the knowledge and skills of partners across the sectors.

The Chief Executive reported on the decision of Council to refer for further consideration by this committee a report of the initiatives undertaken by the Councils and its partners to help eliminate instances of anti-social behaviour in Clough Hall Park (20/11/2019).

Police colleagues present at the meeting explained that the actions taken had resulted in the disturbances prevalent over the summer holidays being disrupted and 2 people had been reprimanded to prison. The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services reported on the positive activities introduced into the park, such as the Park Run. Discussions were also underway concerning the relocation of the rugby club into the park which would also help to displace anti-social behaviour.

It was agreed that this issue be kept under review and a report, to include an online survey of residents, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee,

A report on the current operational issues at Jubilee 2 and their impact on the centres performance:

Membership had declined to 3,000. The report identified the latent building defects which had caused an adverse effect on the operation and customer experience.

It was anticipated that the appointment of Alliance Leisure would assist with a marketing plan and aimed to grow the business by an additional 250 members. The installation of new gym equipment would be completed by April/May 2020 with the new aqua sauna open in April 2020.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee were keen to ensure that the uniqueness of the offer at the facility was maintained, for all members of the community. A business case was being developed with a view to reducing the high cost of energy by way of reclaiming surplus heat. The introduction of on-site chlorine generation from salt was anticipated to achieve a £6,000 per year saving. Further reports to be submitted to the committee

Cllr Ian Wilkes

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