

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Minutes - 14 July 2015

Attendance

Members of the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

Cllr Paula Brookfield (Chair)
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Bishan Dass
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Barry Findlay
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Patricia Patten
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Daniel Warren

Cabinet Member in Attendance

Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Elias Mattu

Employees

Tony Ivko	Service Director - Older People
Karen Samuels	Head of Community Safety
Paul Smith	Head of Commissioning - Older People

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies**
No apologies were received.
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.
- 3 Nomination for Vice-Chair**
Councillor Patricia Patten was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved

That Councillor Patricia Patten be elected as Vice-Chair of the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel for the 2015/16 municipal year.

4 **Minutes of final meeting of the Adults and Community Scrutiny Panel (10.03.2015)**

The minutes of meeting of 10 March 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 10 March 2015

The panel queried the progress of discussions with residents of Duke Street residential bungalows about proposed changes. Tony Ivko, Service Director- Older People, commented that the work is on-going.

The panel queried the plans for Ekta Centre. The Service Director- Older People commented that the work is on-going and agreed to brief the panel on public feedback on plans when available.

Resolved

The Service Director, Older People to provide a briefing to the panel on the outcome of public consultation on the plans for the Ekta Centre when information is available.

5 **Prevent Duty Implications**

Cllr Sandra Samuels, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, introduced the report and outlined the background to the Prevent agenda and its links to the work nationally by Government aimed at stopping people from being drawn into terrorism. The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing outlined the new responsibilities placed on the local authority and other local agencies to have due regard to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing briefed the panel on the multi-agency partnership work.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing commented that the threat level in Wolverhampton is assessed as being low risk by the Home Office.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing outlined the training and E-learning packages offered to Councillors as part of their induction and other resources to provide training to raise awareness of the Prevent duty and responsibilities.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing commented on the work of the Channel Panel, a multi-agency panel. The group is chaired by Karen Samuels, Head of Community Safety.

The panel commented on the concern about the risk of young people being radicalised in primary schools and that new responsibilities placed on schools was not discussed during a briefing on safeguarding. Furthermore, the issue is not being discussed at the school that he is a school governor.

The Head of Community Safety responded that historically, the service has struggled to engage schools in the work of Prevent. However, new responsibilities placed on schools and the inclusion of Prevent in the Ofsted inspection framework has resulted in an increased interest getting training and support. The Head of Community Safety commented on the training requests received from schools and staff available.

The panel discussed the work of the Chanel Panel and the changes in the role of the Counter Terrorism Unit and the importance of agencies to consider safeguarding issues.

The panel discussed the need to extend the role of communities and engage with ethnic and religious groups. The panel discussed concerns about the use of internet and social media to radicalise young people. The panel commented that messages are aimed at all communities.

The panel commented on the statutory responsibilities placed on local authority by Government without necessarily providing the necessary resources.

Head of Community Safety explained that there is a risk of people being radicalised anywhere. The Head of Community Safety accepted the impact of deprivation on young people and explained that areas considered to be a higher risk do get extra funding.

Chief Inspector Tracey Packham discussed the use of internet filters but explained that it presents a challenge on how to monitor its use. The panel discussed the impact of deprivation and the importance of engaging with all communities.

The panel queried the future funding for a post for £35,000 at the end of the fixed term contract. Head of Community Safety explained that the situation about future funding would be reviewed at the end of contract with Safer Wolverhampton Partnership.

The panel queried the assessment by Home Office about Wolverhampton being a low risk and expressed concern about incidents at football grounds and the need to monitor.

The Chief Inspector explained that the assessment of risk by the Home Office is based on historically low referrals to Prevent and Chanel Panel. The Chief Inspector commented on the links with police forces across the midlands to ensure a consistent approach and the benefits of sharing of local intelligence about new risks. She commented on the use of local profile data produced by the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit. The Head of Community Safety added that work is now being undertaken to coordinate a Black Country approach to tackling this issue.

The panel queried the range of resources and support available to support the delivery of Prevent locally, produced by the Home Office. Head of Community Safety explained the material is not currently available but when published it will help to support the delivery of the Prevent programme locally.

Resolved:

The panel welcomed the report.

6 **Exclusion of press and public**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

7 **Better Care technology and strengthening support at home**

Councillor Elias Mattu, Cabinet Member for Adults, introduced the report and explained the reasons for introducing community reablement based services. The Cabinet Member outlined the themes of the strategy and the priorities that will help to promote independence and support people in their own home.

Resolved:

1. The panel supported all the recommendations in the report.2. The panel requested that a progress report is presented to future meeting about the impact of the changes detailed in the report.

The meeting closed at 19:28