

# Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

**Present:** Councillor Redford (Chair); Councillors A Dearing and Noone

## 15. Apologies and Substitutes

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Falp, Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection.

## 16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

## 17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019, were approved, subject to an amendment to the first bullet point on page 3, to remove "in Kenilworth": "one of the areas where the limits were exceeded was Castle Hill in Kenilworth".

## 18. Health and Wellbeing Aspects in Private Sector Housing

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Housing Services which provided a review of work undertaken from 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2019 to enable the Sub-Committee to scrutinise the progress made in respect of health and wellbeing aspects in private sector housing.

On 3 July 2018, a report was considered by the Sub-Committee providing an update on actions undertaken by Housing Services during 2017/18 on improving housing conditions, which was a key task in the Health & Wellbeing Action Plan.

On 17 September 2019, the Sub-Committee reviewed its work programme. It resolved that a report on health and wellbeing aspects in private sector housing should be added to the work programme for January 2020.

In response to questions from Members, the Private Sector Housing Manager advised that:

- The Student Housing Enforcement Officer post funded by Warwick University for a fixed term of 12 months had been filled and the post holder started work on 1 October 2019. The post holder was employed by Warwick District Council within the Private Sector Housing Team, and this meant they had the necessary delegated authorities required for enforcement work. This had started really well and was particularly effective during the Halloween Bonfire Night period. There had previously been a lot of issues reported, but this year, the Student Housing Enforcement Officer had acted proactively by making contact with letting agents and landlords.

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- There was an overlap with Neighbourhood Services in reminding students of their responsibilities in terms of the correct disposal of refuse.
- The main issue was that the role had only been created for a fixed-term period of 12 months. A similar role had been piloted in Coventry, where the university did fund it for a second year because it was considered very efficient and good value for money. Officers were in regular contact with the university, proving the benefit of the role. Officers would not want to lose the role, regardless of its source of funding.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **19. Physical Activity Promotion and Development**

The Sub-Committee considered a presentation from the Sports & Leisure Contract Manager and the Active Communities Officer. The presenting officers thanked Members for the opportunity to update them on the Physical Activity Promotion and Development.

In response to questions from Members, officers explained that:

- the issue of social isolation was high on the list of priorities for Everyone Active;
- the Park Run was a great initiative in addressing social isolation, where attendants could stop and have a cup of tea and a chat afterwards;
- Abbey Fields did have some equipment for outdoors exercise;
- whilst outdoors fitness stations were a positive initiative, in the officers' opinions, the guided walks provided by the Council, for example, left more room for the social element;
- Everyone Active provided a range of holiday activities and camps;
- there was a new project driven by Think Active and the intention was to inform social prescribers of the benefits involved in the new project. A number of clubs were already on board with this. The next step would be to see how many people actually followed it through;
- promoting a healthy lifestyle for children was a priority, and various projects were run by Everyone Active and Kids Run Free;
- the intention was to give as many children as possible opportunities to exercise. Not every child liked team sports and it was important to provide as many alternatives as possible. Clip and Climb was a great example of this, attracting children to exercise without them necessarily being aware of doing so;
- Everyone Active placed a huge emphasis on working with children and provided a very popular gymnastics class, as well as the opportunity for clubs to use sports halls;
- the emphasis was on exercise rather than completion;
- Everyone Active provided a special type of card which were similar to a "passport to leisure", issued free to members of the public meeting certain criteria. The cards looked just like the paid-for membership cards, but offered free or discounted services to those using them;
- it was recommended that a child should get 60 minutes of exercise every day, with the hope that 30 minutes would take place at school. Being active also helped children cognitively;

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- subject to enough schools actually completing the survey, officers might have more data coming in from schools at the end of this school year;
- the focus was to look at what opportunities there were in helping the community;
- Warwick District was fortunate to have a number of providers who offered a range of services. This was extremely positive and the intention was to support new providers wishing to come into the District and increase the number of activities on offer; and
- the District also had a big asset in its parks and green spaces, which provided a huge benefit for residents.

Councillors thanked officers for a very clear and helpful presentation.

### **20. Health & Wellbeing Outside Bodies Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

Councillor Redford informed the Sub-Committee that the last meeting of the Warwickshire County Council – Adult Social Care & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee had taken place that day and she had sent her apologies. However, she would circulate the minutes of the meeting once these became available.

### **21. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Committee Services which informed Members of the work programme for 2019/20, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and the current Forward Plan. The work programme should be updated at each meeting to accurately reflect the workload of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Noone informed Members of a new, EU-funded initiative called "Safer up", which looked at creating a new surface for pavements in order to make them less dangerous in the case of falls by mixing rubber into the tarmac.

#### **Resolved that**

- (1) the Head of Health & Community Protection will further investigate the "Safer up" initiative and inform Members of the findings;
- (2) the Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management be added to the Sub-Committee's work programme for the 17 November 2020 meeting; and
- (3) a Falls Prevention Report be added to 17 November 2020, to include an update on the Lifeline services, the introduction of the raiser chairs and the Falls Response Service.

(The meeting finished at 7.28pm)