

# Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Parkins (Chairman); Councillors D'Arcy, Edgington, Mrs Falp, Mrs Knight, Mrs Redford and Quinney.

**Also Present:** Councillor Grainger.

## 21. **Apologies and Substitutes**

There were no apologies or substitutes.

## 22. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 23. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 24. **Update from the Peer Review**

Following on from the Draft Peer Challenge Feedback Report, 20-22 July 2016, the Chief Executive gave the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee a short briefing on what he considered to be the key messages to this Council in respect of its health and wellbeing delivery. He stated that the main message was that the Council was making good progress, but needed to be sharper in what it was trying to achieve. He was pleased to note the proposals set out under Item 7 of the meeting's agenda "Review of Health & Wellbeing Arrangements", pointing the way forward for this to happen and how this Council would move forward to scrutinise health and wellbeing initiatives. Item 9 on the agenda "WDC submission to the County Council Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report" spelt out what the Council was doing to improve health and wellbeing. He advised that the Council needed to be clear on what the Council was trying to achieve. He was aware that a main obstacle in planning was the fact that the Sustainability Transformation Plan was still a work in progress and not within this Council's purview to control.

In response to a question from a Member on what subjects Mr Elliott might suggest the Sub-Committee examine, on the basis that he did not know the budgetary implications, and simply as "blue sky" thinking, he suggested:

- Reviewing whether swimming lessons for children could be reintroduced in all schools;
- To focus on young, mainly male suicides, which had been highlighted in a report from Public Health; and
- To consider asking the Community what it wanted the Council to focus attention upon.

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

(Councillor Edgington arrived at the meeting whilst this item was being discussed.)

### **25. Purple Flag Accreditation**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Health & Community Protection which set out the bid process, the benefits and action plan resulting from the Purple Flag Assessment which led to accreditation.

Purple Flag was a programme which had been developed by the Association of Town Centre Managers, working alongside the Purple Flag Advisory Committee, which recognised excellence in the management of the evening and night-time economy.

The Council's application for accreditation was submitted in June 2016, and the Purple Flag status was awarded in September 2016.

In response to questions from Members, the Public Places & Projects Team Leader replied that:

- The Purple Flag accreditation was well recognised and in applying for the accreditation, a significant amount of data had been gathered which indicated areas where there was room for improvement, such as signage and taxi drivers.
- It would cost about £1,000 to apply for renewal of the accreditation. So far only three businesses had joined the scheme, but it was hoped more would join.
- Purple Flag accreditation would help encourage more people to join the scheme.
- CCTV images allowed the Council to see where people congregated at night and to ensure street marshalls had a presence there.
- Warwick was not a potential town to achieve the accreditation currently.

The Members thanked the officers, especially the Public Places and Projects Team Leader for the hard work they had done.

### **26. Annual Status Report – Air Quality Management**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Health & Community Protection which gave them an update on progress with air quality management. The report was based upon an annual status report required by DEFRA.

In response to questions from Members, the Interim Environmental Sustainability Team Leader responded that:

- There was more work to be done to achieve better air quality.
- Cars with diesel engines were more damaging to the District's air quality than HGVs, due to the numbers of vehicles involved, where number of cars with diesel engines entering the District, far outweighed the number of HGVs.
- The data that would show how low emission levels would drop if all vehicles complied with standards was not available. This was because air quality was monitored, not the vehicles themselves.

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

- The Interim Environmental Sustainability Team Leader did not know of any Authorities which did roadside checks to measure vehicle emissions, and was interested to know from Councillor Quinney which Authorities he was referring to.
- The monitors used to measure air quality were not the Council's property, they belonged to DEFRA, therefore, the Council could not determine where they were sited. If we purchased our own devices, it would not contribute more information of much value because the District levels were already low.
- There was not a "safe level" for particulates set because particulates were not safe; the Government simply set targets that should not be exceeded.
- Even banning HGVs driving through towns was difficult to enforce because there were exceptions that could be exploited.

Councillor Quinney would liaise with the Interim Environmental Sustainability Team Leader on traffic regulation laws and low emission zones for reporting back to the Sub-Committee.

### **27. Review of Health and Wellbeing Arrangements**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Health & Community Protection which summarised the Council's current position in relation to Health and Wellbeing, including the current delivery review.

The results of this review led to a number of conclusions to assist the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee to have greater input into the health and wellbeing of people who lived in, worked in, and visited Warwick District:

- Officers to review the Health and Wellbeing approach to ensure that it was clear and accessible in order to ensure greater co-operation and partnership working with stakeholders. A draft reviewed version of that approach was included as appendix 4 to the report.
- Form an officer Health and Wellbeing Steering Group which would formulate action plans to drive forward the approach. This group to report back to the Sub-Committee in order that the Sub-Committee could provide scrutiny of the delivery of the approach.
- To consider whether the establishment of a Joint South Warwickshire Health Scrutiny Body (replicating that of North Warwickshire) would provide an effective means of scrutinising medical clinical primary and secondary healthcare in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and Healthwatch.
- That the role of the Sub-Committee was further explored to allow the group to engage in the scrutiny of the Council's performance in preventative health measures and tackling the social determinants of health. In addition, to provide support and feedback to those Members who sat on Health and Wellbeing Bodies, as representatives of the Council, and who were responsible for scrutinising the wider medical provisions of the NHS.

A report agreeing the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee would go forward for a decision at Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 29 November 2016.

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

**Recommended** to Overview & Scrutiny Committee that:

- (1) the suggested approach to the Health & Wellbeing agenda and its delivery as laid out in the report be approved; and
- (2) the Sub-Committee continues in its current format in order to ensure that the approach outlined in the report is delivered.

### **28. Dementia Friendly Communities**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Health & Wellbeing Lead that outlined the action plan for the Council to achieve dementia-friendly communities' recognition.

All communities that registered for the dementia-friendly communities' recognition process would be formally working towards meeting the foundation criteria for being dementia friendly.

A community that registered for the recognition process was committing to take each of the foundation criteria and interpreting them from a local perspective to fit the size, type, stage of progression and resource, and describe what they were working towards and the actions they intended to take.

The foundation criteria had been developed from feedback from a number of stakeholders and communities that were becoming dementia friendly to act as a basis from which to develop local plans and a report back on progress against them would be expected.

Councillor Mrs Falp reported that she had contacted Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) to spread the message around local town and parish councils, and work was being done to encourage community hubs to take the lessons on board.

The Alzheimer's Society had reviewed how Riverside House could be made more suitable to accommodate visitors living with dementia. A list of improvement had been made and these would be taken on board for the new Council headquarters.

A training date for Councillors would be fixed in January, and the invitation to attend would be extended to parish and town councils.

### **29. WDC submission to the County Council Health and Wellbeing Board annual report**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Health & Wellbeing Lead which outlined the work that was being undertaken across the Council to improve the Health and Wellbeing of those who resided in, worked in, and visited Warwick District.

A report that was submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for its 2016 annual report to demonstrate the work which Warwick District Council was

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

undertaking to meet the Health and Wellbeing Strategy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was noted that some information was missing because the report had been produced at very short notice, but these would be completed in the future. In particular, Members noted that the report did not give a full perspective on the numbers of affordable houses available against the number required.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **30. Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme**

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which informed it of its work programme for 2016 and the current Forward Plan for November 2016 to February 2017.

**Resolved** that for the Work Programme 17 January 2017:

- (1) Housing & Property Services – Council housing stock – standards relevant to Health & Wellbeing. Confirm whether this report can still be delivered on 17 January;
- (2) Citizen's Advice Bureau/Community Partnership Team – Financial Inclusion/Priority Families. Remove this item from the Work Programme;
- (3) Environmental Health – Food Safety regulation and Infection Control. This item to be postponed to a future date to be confirmed;
- (4) Environmental Health – Health & Safety Regulation. This item to be postponed to a future date to be confirmed;
- (5) Add feedback from any outside body meetings for Health & Wellbeing to the Work Programme every meeting;
- (6) Add Forward Plan Reference 822 "Housing Futures – Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2017" to the Work Programme to do pre-scrutiny from a Health & Wellbeing perspective; and
- (7) Add Forward Plan Reference 826 "New Domestic Abuse Policy" to the Work Programme to do pre-scrutiny from a Health & Wellbeing perspective.

(The meeting finished at 8.00 pm)