

**At a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE
SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2015 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor Dianne Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Davison, D. Dixon, Fletcher, Scanlan and David Snowdon and Mr Steve Williamson.

Also in attendance:-

Councillor Trueman – (in respect of item 4 only)

Ms. Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr. Stuart Douglass, Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety, Sunderland City Council

Mr. David Gallagher, Chief Officer, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group

Ms. Gillian Gibson, Consultant in Public Health, Sunderland City Council

Mr. David Noon, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Howe and N. Wright.

Change in the order of Business

The Chairman advised that she would be taking item 4 on the agenda (Safer Sunderland Annual Report) at this juncture to allow Councillor Trueman to leave and attend another meeting immediately thereafter.

Safer Sunderland Annual Report 2014-15

The Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the annual report of the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) for 2014-15.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Stuart Douglass, Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety and Councillor Trueman, Deputy Leader, presented the report, highlighting the key points and addressing questions and comments from Members.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor David Snowdon, Councillor Trueman advised that currently there was no specific evidence to link the rise in recorded crime with welfare reform or central government cutbacks. There had been speculation that changes to the benefit system could be reflected in increased levels of shoplifting however crime figures in this category had actually declined. There was a school of thought that people were increasingly relying on payday loans to avoid falling into criminality and that the change from weekly to monthly benefits payments may impact on local crimes rates.

Councillor Dixon advised that he had attended the West Sunderland Area Committee the previous evening where Northumbria Police had presented the local crime statistics. The police had explained the recent changes implemented by the Home Office in relation to the collation and recording of the crime figures and the fluctuations this had caused in the statistics.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Fletcher in respect of issues in relation to the A690 at Houghton, Mr Douglas advised that he would ask Michelle Cotes to place it on the next LMAPs agenda.

With regard to the format of the report, Councillor David Snowdon commented that the use of percentages was pointless if the actual number of cases concerned weren't also included.

The Chairman welcomed the enormous amount of positive work that been done to tackle the issue of domestic violence and noted that this had resulted in an increase in the number of incidents reported. Councillor Trueman advised that the amount of publicity given to the matter had helped remove any stigma and had brought the issue into the open. The crime of domestic violence was no longer a hidden crime.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked Mr Douglass and Councillor Trueman for their attendance and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that a further report on the key achievements in delivering the strategic priorities be submitted at the end of 2015/16.

Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 5th November, 2015 and of the Extraordinary Meetings held on 25th February and 21st October, 2015.

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8th October, 2015 and of the extraordinary meetings held on 25th February and 21st October 2015 (copies circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct records.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

CQC Inspections of General Practices in Sunderland

The Chief Officer of the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) general practice reports published in respect of the Conishead, Church View and Harraton surgeries.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Gallagher, Chief Officer of the CCG who presented the report highlighting the key aspects and in particular the support being provided for Harraton surgery which had been deemed inadequate in the CQC report.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor David Snowdon, Mr Gallagher confirmed that the surgery was not in special measures prior to the CQC inspection. Mr Williamson queried whether the inadequate rating had implications for patient safety. Mr Gallagher replied that it did not. There were no fundamental clinical safety issues for the practice arising from the inspection. If there had been, the CCG would have stepped in and taken action.

Councillor Scanlon asked whether the practice was required to notify patients of the inspection findings. Mr Gallagher confirmed that it was and that the CCG would be providing support to assist the surgery in doing so. Councillor Scanlon also asked whether the practice need to display a formal notice about the inspection on the premises. Mr Gallagher confirmed that this was the case.

The Chairman having thanked Mr Gallagher for his report, it was :-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Review of Scrutiny Arrangements and Next Steps

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the views of the Committee on the proposed structure and operating arrangements of a new scrutiny model for the Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements together with Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer presented the report highlighting the background to the issue, the key proposals in relation to the revised Scrutiny Structure and Committee memberships, together with details of the proposed transitional arrangements to operate from January 2016 prior to the formal adoption of the new structure at Annual Council in May 2016.

Members gave detailed consideration to the report and the following points were highlighted:-

- i) Consideration be given to an amendment to the proposed membership of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee,(as detailed in Appendix one of the report), to provide for the inclusion of the Vice Chairs of the three thematic Scrutiny Committees resulting in the following membership:-

Chairman
Vice Chairman
3X Thematic Chairman
3X Thematic Vice Chairman
6 Scrutiny Members
(Total = 14 Members)

- ii) Consideration be given to the power to appoint co-opted member(s) to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

The Chairman having thanked Ms Burnham and Ms Brown for presenting the report it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) it be recommended to the Council that subject to i) and ii) above, approval be given to the proposed new model for Scrutiny as detailed in paragraph 5 and appendix 1 of the report;
- ii) approval be given to the proposed transitional arrangements to be implemented between January and April 2016 as detailed in paragraph 7 and appendix 2 of the report and
- iii) the progress towards delivering the actions arising from the independent Scrutiny Review as detailed in appendix 3 of the report be noted.

Monitoring the Delivery of Agreed Scrutiny Recommendations

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Scrutiny Committee with progress in relation to the implementation of agreed scrutiny recommendations from 14 policy reviews conducted by the relevant scrutiny panel during 2013/14 and 2014/15 respectively.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer having presented the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the progress towards completion of the actions detailed within the Action Plans as set out in Appendices A to M of the report be noted.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Interim Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 17th November, 2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2015-16

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015-16 for the Committee's information.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nigel Cummings advised that it had now been confirmed that the further update in respect of Sunderland breast services would be reported to the Committee at its January 14th meeting. Given the nature of the subject, Mr Williams expressed concern that two meetings of the Working Group in respect of Breast Services had been cancelled. Mr Cummings reported that unfortunately the cancellations had been unavoidable however the next meeting had been arranged for 15th December, 2015.

7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

Member Development Opportunity

The Interim Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with details of a development opportunity in relation to Health and Social Care.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to the attendance of two members of the Committee and a Scrutiny Officer at the Westminster Briefing 'The Future of Health and Wellbeing Boards' to be held at Westminster on Tuesday 23rd February, 2016.

Lead Scrutiny Member Update: December, 2015

The Lead Scrutiny Members submitted a joint report (copy circulated), which provided an overview to the Scrutiny Committee of the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels to date.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Cummings having advised that the Budget Consultation event for Scrutiny Members would be held on Wednesday, 9th December, 2015 in Committee Rm1 at

2.00pm and that he would email round details of the proposed Scrutiny Members development day, it was ;-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members be received and noted; and
- (b) the current expenditure and remaining scrutiny budget for 2015/16 be noted.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee placed on record her best wishes to Councillor Norma Wright for a full and speedy recovery and having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions, closed the meeting.

(Signed) DIANNE SNOWDON,
Chairman.