

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday 25th April 2019

Time: 10:00am – 11:00am

Venue: Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillors S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), A Costello, L Every, J French, I Manning, L Nieto and T Sanderson

Apologies: Councillors L Dupre and C Richards

153. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Councillor Dupre and Councillor Richards.

No declarations of interest were made.

154. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH MARCH 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Action Log was noted.

155. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions or public questions were received.

156. WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN – REVIEW OF DELIVERY

The Committee received a report that provided an update on the Council's White Ribbon accreditation. In presenting the report, the Assistant Director for Housing, Communities and Youth informed Members that the White Ribbon campaign would henceforth fall under the remit of the Assistant Director for Public Protection. It was also noted that the campaign served as a statement of the Council's commitment to tackling the issue of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In order to achieve reaccreditation in May 2020, the Council would need to identify areas for improvement and act on them, as outlined in the report. A recruitment campaign for a fourth ambassador was underway, following the death of a previous ambassador. The Committee was reminded that a draft domestic violence bill was currently being considered by government, although it remained unclear how this would affect the responsibilities and priorities of local authorities.

Attention was drawn to the Action Plan outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, especially around engagement with sports clubs and music venues, where it was noted that work had been carried out with Cambridge Live Trust, Junction, Cambridge United Football Club and Living Sport. The 'Ask Me' scheme piloted by Cambridge Women's Aid was also highlighted as a successful complement to White Ribbon.

In discussing the report, Members:

- Praised the work already carried out for the White Ribbon campaign and expressed support for its continuation. One Member recalled his initial scepticism to the project and acknowledged that the positive results had pleased him.
- Noted that there was widespread support and interest throughout local communities, with a number of people indicating willingness to participate in the campaign.
- Expressed concern that issues such as the potential closure of Whitworth House, a hostel in Cambridge for vulnerable women, had a negative effect on the public's perception of the Council's commitment to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and as a result detracted from the White Ribbon campaign. However, it was acknowledged that such issues were separate from the White Ribbon campaign and that the Council was working to improve the accommodation situation for victims.
- Sought clarification from officers on whether the Council was participating in lobbying to central government on issues such as legal aid for victims. Members were informed that the Council's involvement had been minimal, as lobbying was generally carried out by charities and organisations, although contributions and support had been provided throughout any consultations.
- Acknowledged that a high level of collaboration and working in partnership with other organisations and local authorities was a critical part of the campaign's success. It would also be boosted by an officer's secondment to Standing Together, which would provide invaluable insight on the national approach.
- Noted that there were also male victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, although the majority were female, and it was clarified that all the services provided by the Council were available to all victims regardless of their gender.
- Discussed the need to carefully plan which events to attend with the campaign. An example was given of the Peterborough Truck Fest as an ideal location to encounter a different demographic and gain feedback on how people react to the campaign through public engagement.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Continue Member Support to the White Ribbon campaign.

157. PREVENT STRATEGY 2019-2021

The Committee received a report on proposed updates to the combined Prevent Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Members were informed that while Prevent activities across the County had previously been carried out by the police, the responsibility would shortly be transferred to the local authority. It was noted that the Prevent Strategy was complex and involved many layers, with Members' attention being drawn to the diagram in section 2.7 of the report for guidance on the delivery structure. This interconnectedness emphasised the need to work with communities and the Council's responsibility to train, safeguard and raise awareness of its staff.

The role of Councillor Cuffley as the Member lead was highlighted as being of importance and the Assistant Director of Public Protection referred to the list of Points of Contact within the local authority on page 8 of the Prevent Strategy to demonstrate that taking ownership of the strategy had also been identified as fundamental.

While discussing the report and Prevent Strategy, Members:

- Agreed that effective communication and engagement were necessary to ensure the Strategy was successful.
- Sought clarification on whether taking over responsibility from the police would be accompanied by extra resources and it was established that the local authority was not expecting substantial extra resources. It was also noted that such resources would be dispersed across the region in alignment with councils in Luton, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
- Considered how schools would be engaged and the fact that governors needed to be provided with effective training on their role in the process of helping children understand. Recent interactions with schools had emphasised the importance of staff being aware of what was available to them beforehand, rather than after an incident had occurred. The Committee was also informed that an improved training package was in the process of being built.
- Queried how risks were identified and whether machine learning techniques had been used. The referral process was explained as being similar to safeguarding techniques, with attention being focussed on identifying risk areas, such as areas with far right extremism.
- Suggested that the report and Strategy did not pay sufficient attention to hate crime or the effect that the Strategy had proven to have on minority groups and that these two issues should be recognised within the Strategy itself. The Assistant Director of Public Protection acknowledged the concerns and agreed that including a paragraph of information on local action in this area would be positive. **Action required**
- Noted that the internet and social media played an ever increasing role in targeting and influencing within society, although it was acknowledged that monitoring of such activities was carried out by separate agencies and that local authorities were not involved.
- Recognised the need to keep district and parish councils regularly updated on the Strategy. The Service Director of Community and Safety proposed a workshop session to discuss how to train and engage other local authorities as well as school governors.
- Expressed concern that the list of county group members on page 12 of the Strategy did not include any faith groups, noting that discussions on their involvement had been carrying on since 2018 without turning into action or visible progress. The Committee had previously talked extensively about the fact that many people that were reluctant to engage with the local authority would however engage with faith groups. It was acknowledged that there were a number of senior boards that did not have representatives sitting on them and that while the Members' wishes to see their

involvement could be conveyed, it was not possible to enforce this as a requirement. It was agreed that partners should be encouraged to make a decision rather than prolong the discussion, with a proposal to set a deadline for their inclusion through advisory boards or direct board representation. **Action required**

It was resolved to:

Approve the Prevent Strategy for 2019-2021.

158. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATES

The Committee noted brief oral updates provided by the following Councillors:

- Councillor Costello, who drew attention to Essentials by Sue moving in to Yaxley, Farcet, Peterborough and Sawtry, the annual general meeting of the Women's Institute that she attended and forthcoming meetings with people to discuss the employment of people with learning disabilities. A written update was also provided and is included as **Appendix A** to these minutes.
- Councillor Every, who drew attention to the fact that East Cambridgeshire District Council had taken on board the Youth Strategy and as a result a skate park would be built in Ely in a bid to further engage youth on more projects. A written update was also provided and is included as **Appendix B** to these minutes.
- Councillor French, who noted that upcoming local elections had led to limited involvement with other local authorities, while drawing attention to a workshop she attended in March.

In a discussion that followed the oral updates, Members:

- Expressed agreement with the proposal made by the Service Director of Community and Safety for social prescribing to be moved into the Committee's remit, noting that it would link well with the focus on communities as well as ensuring that it reached all ages and demographics. **Action required**
- Discussed opportunities for Post-18 students obtaining business mentors, noting the pilot scheme by Cambridge Regional College, and the importance in helping them move on to independence. Members expressed interest in providing support to help find further businesses to become involved.

159. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE – AGENDA PLAN, TRAINING PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

The Committee noted its Agenda Plan.

Chairman
30th May 2019

Community Champion of Community Activity update

Community Champion:	Councillor Adela Costello
Place:	Huntingdonshire
Date:	Update for Communities and Partnership Committee – 25/04/2019

UPDATE

- Essentials by Sue was launched in Yaxley Library on 10th April to cover Yaxley and Farcet. Sue Loaker attended and explained the reasoning behind the project. Donations of items was overwhelming. Youth workers and the local schools were all involved. Hunts Post wrote up an article. A review to take place in June.
- Attended the W.I. AGM at the Burgess Hall to promote Essentials by Sue within Huntingdonshire and received a lot of positive feedback plus offers of donations in the three localities.
- Monthly article in the local newspaper highlighting the work of the council plus the continued need to recruit foster carers and re-ablement workers.
- Meeting with Ramsey Yarners to discuss possibilities of providing knitted/crocheted blankets, scarves, hats, mitts to be distributed via Food Banks and other organisations dealing with the elderly and homeless for next winter.
- Held a discussion about third party reporting in Huntingdonshire and suggested that an ideal venue could be Hinchingsbrooke Hospital or Pathfinder House. At present the proposed venue will be Pathfinder house.

NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

- A meeting to be arranged with the Portfolio Holder for Communities at the District Council to consider future initiatives plus the Member who has a responsibility for homeless people in the area.
- Reinstate a meeting for local parishes following a disappointing attendance in January.
- Meeting took place on 5th February with the Mayor of the CA to discuss local issues but in particular Rural Transport. The Mayor was very aware of the need for change in local transport throughout the area.
- Meeting with Adults Skills Service to look at opportunities for learning and employment for Adults with Learning Disabilities.

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC including Library Staff and local community groups in establishing 'Essentials by Sue'. The project is now going to be rolled out in St. Ives.
- Supporting Time Bank co-ordinators in identifying new projects which will benefit local people such as gritting pavements in the winter months.
- Arranging meetings with local parish/town councillors and clerks to discuss issues in their areas.

Community Champion of Community Activity update

Community Champion:	Councillor Lis Every
Place:	East Cambridgeshire
Date:	Update for Communities and Partnership Committee – 25/04/2019

UPDATE**The following are still ongoing:**

- Setting up a review of local Children's Centres' provision locally;
- Planning Sixth Form employability seminar with Ely Cathedral for July;
- ECDC Careers Event in Ely Cathedral - planning for next year – 5 November 2019;
- Business Forum continues to work with local sectors; networking business lunches at Bishop Laney Sixth Form set up with sector representatives and focused Year 12 and 13 students: have held Media; Finance and Catering so far. Excellent networking events leading to work experience and understanding of the sector studied;
- Sanctuary Bid successful and working with applicant on the 'Get Moving' project;
- Working on Littleport becoming a Dementia town with local councillors;
- Working with a programme to support Dementia groups through exercise and singing in order to share good practice;
- Working on the Hate Project with CSP at ECDC – working on local walk in centres and now Eyes and Ears Project from ECDC to be adopted across other areas;
- Discussions with VCAEC to extend car share scheme and attract volunteers outside Ely. Putting in a bid; and
- Continuing to work with City College, Peterborough to grow numbers on their courses in East Cambridgeshire.

NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**Major Projects:**

- ECDC Youth Strategy now agreed as policy. Initial meetings undertaken with officers and draft strategy being written;
- Supporting a group of young people in Ely and area on building a skate park, working on feasibility studies, sites etc.;
- Strategic plan for Littleport on social prescribing being written;
- Planning for the pilot for a Local offer plan for our care leavers in Cambridge City well in hand. Obtaining 10 business mentors for the initial group of 10 students. Working with Cambridge Region College;
- Part of the multi-agency Mental Health Task Group for children in care researching the level of support provided by local universities; and
- Putting together a seminar for SMEs on apprenticeships with FE and the local students to achieve more apprenticeships in this area.

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Initial research has been undertaken to identify the organisations in existence, what they currently offer; how these services could overlap and determining a network strategy;
- Working with parish and district councillors to create capacity and information base supporting their work in their Parishes/Wards as required;
- Building network of community providers and champions across the District; and
- Improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.