

**COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C J T H BREWIS (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors L Wootten (Vice-Chairman), K J Clarke, D C Morgan, A G Hagues, C R Oxby, S L W Palmer, Mrs N J Smith, R Wootten and R G Fairman

Councillors: N H Pepper, C N Worth and B Young attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Sara Barry (Safer Communities Manager), Nick Borrill (Chief Fire Officer), Michelle Grady (Head of Finance (Communities)), Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer), Chris Weston (Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Intelligence) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT COUNCILLORS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R J Phillips.

36 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

37 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2016

During consideration of the minutes, it was clarified that in relation to minute number 29, bullet point 6 there was a minimum age of 18 to become a retained fire fighter, however, there was no upper age limit, subject to the expected criteria being met. Also, members were advised that the information requested in relation to the last bullet point regarding the number of female retained fire fighters would be circulated shortly.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38 UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICERS

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The Executive Councillor Community Safety and People Management reported that the launch of the Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration (ARC) had taken place the previous Friday. It was commented that this was a very important subject and a report should come before the committee in the future. It was noted that 2% of offenders in Lincolnshire committed 13% of all offences, and the top 2% in Lincoln were responsible for 27% of offences.

39 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report which described the budget proposals arising from the Provisional Local Government Settlement, announced on 15 December 2016 and the implications for the following commissioning strategies – Community Resilience and Assets; Wellbeing; protecting the Public; Sustaining & Developing Prosperity through Infrastructure (heritage Services only).

The Executive would be consulting on a one year budget, and there were still difficult circumstances in terms of understanding the total amount of cost pressures as well as the funding that would be available. The Council was proposing to increase council tax by 1.95% and also by an additional 2% increase for the adult social care precept, making a total proposed increase of 3.95%.

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

Community Resilience & Assets

- In relation to the pension scheme, and the intention to reduce the amount paid by service areas and make a lump sum corporate contribution to the fund, it was commented that the effect of reducing numbers of staff on the scheme had not registered. It was noted that reviews of the pension scheme were done on a cyclical basis, and the contribution method had been changed to ensure that the council's responsibilities were being met.
- It was queried why the Council was not setting a 4/5 year budget, but the districts had been able to. Members were advised that it was the Executive's decision to set a one year budget. There were also some cost pressures which were specific to the County Council such as adult social care and waste disposal costs. There were also still questions around the Better Care Fund (BCF). It was commented that South Holland District Council had also only set a one year⁴ budget.
- With the announcement that approval would be sought for a poll on unitary authorities, it was queried whether the additional money would come to the county council if the districts were dissolved. It was noted that the savings would come from reducing the administration of eight authorities. The government was moving towards a localisation of funding.
- It was commented that with more services being cut the voluntary sector would become more and more important. Members were advised that there were a high number of disparate service level agreements with organisations, and they would be brought together under one agreement.

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- It was queried how the budget for the CAB could be reduced by £0.684m but it was still going to be funded. It was reported that the £684,000 was in the base budget, which was a commitment to pay this amount every year. However, this amount was going to be removed from the base budget, and would instead be funded on a one off basis from the reserves. It was commented that CAB was a vital service.
- In terms of the savings from the community and voluntary sector, it was clarified that the same support would be provided, but in more economical way.

Wellbeing

- Concerns were raised regarding the proposals to reduce the funding for walking programmes. However, it was understood why the reductions were being made, but it was requested whether they could be reinstated if more funding became available.
- In terms of the health improvement activities, it was commented that they would have been implemented as a need for them was identified at some point. It was queried whether there was a need to track the effects of the reduction of these services and the impact it would have on other services such as the NHS. It was noted that this information was tracked by Public Health, and there may be changes seen in a few years.

Protecting the Public

- It was noted that the service was currently receiving funding from the Better Care Fund (BCF) towards the costs of co-responding. However, no long term decisions around this funding had been made by central government.
- It was queried how the Registration, Celebratory and Coroners Service would generate additional income. Members were advised that a lot of work had been done and this service was almost self-funding. It was noted that the additional income came from the issuing of certificates, additional wedding venues and celebratory services. There were now a lot of services which the authority could charge for.
- A formal consultation on the Coroners service was due to be issued by the MoJ.
- Clarification was sought regarding the proposed reduction Road Safety budget and how it would become self-funding. Members were advised that this referred to the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership generating income through speed awareness courses. It was noted that there were no further changes planned.

(Councillor S L W Palmer declared an interest at this point in the meeting as a member of L.I.V.E.S)

- It was commented that co-responding was a very important part of the fire service. It was queried what the risk was in terms of the future funding for this service. It was stated that the intention was to secure continued funding support for this service from the BCF, there were ear-marked reserves to match this.
- Changing response times to stations to help recruitment was considered on a case by case basis.

RESOLVED

That the comments made in relation to the budget proposals be passed to the Executive for consideration at its meeting on 7 February 2017.

40 COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT SERVICES RE-COMMISSIONING UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the re-commissioning work that had been undertaken and detailed the what new services had been contracted and what they would deliver over the next five years.

It was reported that in March 2015, the Executive approved the re-commissioning of substance mis-use treatment services, and agreed that the contracts be reviewed at the end of the current contract period.

Significant engagement and consultation took place between January and November 2015, and Lincolnshire County Council used this partner input to develop two new specifications that included:

- Lot 1 – A comprehensive treatment system that included alcohol and drug treatment for young people and adults, delivering both psychosocial and clinical interventions across Lincolnshire. This specification also included a comprehensive needle syringe programme that had both specialist and pharmacy based services.
- Lot 2 – A new recovery service that would help bridge the gap between treatment and full recover and integration into local communities by improving social inclusion and employability of those in recovery. To help achieve this there would be a heavy reliance upon mutual aid and peer support, as well as training and education.

Members were advised that the specifications used an outcome focused approach which enabled the Council to detail what the service should achieve rather than saying how it should be structured. This allowed bidder more room for innovation and potentially more efficient ways of working. It was reported that on 30 March 2016, Addaction were awarded both contracts for the Treatment and Recovery Services.

Fern Hensley and Natasha Swift from Addaction were in attendance to answer any questions from the Committee in relation to the operation of the service.

The Committee was provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- Volunteers would be welcomed from anywhere in the county. Officers confirmed that they would provide members with leaflets to distribute in their areas regarding volunteering opportunities.
- It was queried what was meant by 'full recovery' and whether there would be follow up of clients. Members were advised that recovery was a very personal thing, and there wasn't a 'checklist', but was instead dependent on what the individuals' aspirations for recovery were. The service would not cherry pick

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who it worked with based on how long their recovery would take, but would work with everyone who approached them for treatment services. It was noted that it would be a massive task to track everyone after recovery, and was not viable in the budgets that the service had. However, if an individual came back into treatment that would be tracked.

- In terms of the recovery service, it was noted that students from outside of Lincoln would be offered transportation costs, but this had been budgeted for. As the service developed there would be increased infrastructure costs, but the costs of transport would reduce.
- It was noted that the service already carried out work in schools across the county, either with individuals or through group support.
- It was commented that work so far was encouraging and it was a very comprehensive service.
- It was queried what involvement there had been with LHAC and it was reported that working in partnership was not a viable option at the moment. However, Addaction worked in partnership with a lot of GP's across the county as well as other health organisations.
- Members were advised that it was unlikely that there would be an overlap between the work of this service and Public Health. The funding that was received was for treatment and recovery services, whilst public health would have more of a focus on prevention which was a different area completely. It was noted that there would be scope within the STP to look at the prevention agenda.
- In relation to the recruitment of volunteers, it was noted that a central contact point would be helpful, and this would be added to the leaflets. When someone called they would be put in touch with a manager to explain what would be required.
- In terms of people relapsing after treatment, members were advised that if someone wanted to engage in treatment they could be tracked through a national database during their treatment journey. If someone was frequently in and out of treatment there would be a need for parameters on their treatment journey. The service would never refuse to treat someone. There would be a need to learn from why someone had relapsed and then try to help them deal with that, e.g. if it was due to a relationship breakdown.
- In respect of the 20% service credits and the target relating to reducing the number of clients re-presenting to treatment, it was queried how this would work in practice. It was reported that parameters would be set for what was considered a successful completion, and there would be gradual re-integration.
- A report from Public Health England measured those that left treatment in the first six months of a year and re-presented in the last six months of the year on a rolling 12 months. If someone stayed away from treatment services for at least six months, there was less chance of them going back into treatment.
- In relation to the leaflet attached at Appendix C to the report, it was queried how people would know that there was a site available in their area. It was noted that the main admin centres were listed on the leaflet, but officers would look whether this could be amended.

- Concerns were raised regarding the use of language in relation to stop smoking services, as it was felt that alternative phrases to 'giving up' should be used. Members were advised that it was personal preference in relation to language used, but it was vital that people understood the services being offered.
- It was queried whether there was a benefit to someone going 'cold turkey' and members were advised that this depended on what substance was being talked about, as it could be medically dangerous to stop drinking altogether if someone was drinking at dangerous levels.
- The service needed to be accessible for as many people as possible. Addaction was also working in partnership with smoking cessation services.
- The representatives from Addaction were congratulated for the work they were doing as it was acknowledged that it was a difficult job.
- People who were arrested for drugs offences could be referred to the service if they had a history of substance misuse, but it was not mandatory.
- It was highlighted that not everyone who misused substances was a criminal, and volunteers were aware of any risks.
- In terms of mental health, a piece of work with LPFT was underway to look at dual diagnoses, and meetings were being held at practitioner level to make the process smoother and more robust.
- If there was a need to escalate an issue, Addaction sat on the substance misuse delivery board which also involved a lot of key partners. There was also access to the health and wellbeing board. Members were advised that there was a governance structure in place if any issues with partners arose.
- It was requested that the Committee receive periodic updates on this service.

RESOLVED

1. That the comments made in relation to the report be noted.
2. That the Committee receive periodic updates on the work of this service.

41 BESPOKE BUSINESS ADVICE PROVIDED BY TRADING STANDARDS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update and overview following the introduction of chargeable advice to Lincolnshire businesses on 1 April 2016 by the County Council's Trading Standards Service. It was reported that Trading Standards was now able to offer many services to Lincolnshire businesses on a cost recovery basis including providing up to the minute advice on complex consumer legislation. Members were advised that since April 2016 the following levels of advice were available:

- General basic advice without charge up to one hour of a Trading Standards Officer's time to provide a general explanation of the law to help the business comply with the law
- Where a business requires more in-depth information and guidance or required detailed research an hourly charge of £58 (plus VAT) would be incurred.

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- A Primary Authority Partnership was available for those eligible authorities and traded outside of the County. This was a national statutory scheme signed off by the secretary of state which allowed businesses to form a partnership with a single local authority. Qualifying businesses would receive an annually agreed package of advice and support charged at £58.00 per hour. Primary Authority also simplified how businesses could comply with the necessary regulations and helped Lincolnshire Trading Standards to engage better with businesses in Lincolnshire.

Members were advised that there was no price rise in 2015/16 and it was proposed to increase the charges to £60.00 per hour from 1 April 2017.

The Committee was provided with an opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was confirmed that the advice provided to businesses was legally binding and it would also be put in writing to the business as well.
- There had been a need to restructure business advice service to ensure that there was a balance with the enforcement role.
- It was confirmed that Trading Standards was only able to charge an amount which enabled them to recover their costs. It was noted that this referred to all costs including accommodation, IT services and officer time.
- It was noted that the charge had not been increased for 18 months.
- It was requested the Committee could receive updates on this service in the future.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee support the continuation of the business advice strategy service which commenced in April 2016.
2. That the Committee support the proposed price increase from 1 April 2017.
3. That further reports be received in the future.

42 FUNDING FOR SUPPORTED HOUSING CONSULTATION

The Committee received a report which provided the opportunity to consider and comment on government proposals for the future funding of supported housing.

It was reported that supported and sheltered housing supports tens of thousands of people across the country, including the elderly, homeless and those living with disabilities, to live independently and get their lives back on track. In September 2016, the Departments for Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government outlined proposals to change the way that supported housing would be funded. The Government announced that a new system would be introduced in April 2019 and a formal consultation process was underway.

Members were advised that the consultation would run for 12 weeks until 13 February 2017 and a Green Paper on detailed arrangements for the local top-up model and approach to short-term accommodation would follow in the spring.

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The Committee received a presentation which outlined the key elements of the proposals, and provided further information in relation to the following areas:

- Supported housing
- Groups of people in supported housing
- The government funding reform
- The key elements of the new proposals
- What next
- The consultation covers these key areas
- The impact for Lincolnshire

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and presentation and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was clarified that 'older people with support needs' referred to those people in extra care, longer term care, residential homes and those with re-ablement needs.
- LCC invested £4m per year in supported housing related issues.
- It was requested whether the draft formal response could be sent to the Committee.
- It was commented that there was a short time frame for the consultation and it was queried how service users would be engaged with. Members were advised that this document had already been sent to a lot of providers to ask if they wanted to provide a response.
- It was suggested that there was a need for much closer working with districts, and it was noted that a co-ordinated response was expected from the districts on this consultation.
- Concerns were raised that a lot of service users were very vulnerable and so may not speak out if they did not agree with the housing association. Members were advised that there were engagement groups which service users would be able to feed into.
- Devolved responsibilities would come with devolved funding, and whether this would include funding for administration would be included within the response.

RESOLVED

That the Committee welcome the consultation and the authority's approach to a response.

43 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which provided the opportunity for members to consider and comment on the content of the work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity was focused where it could be of greatest benefit.

During consideration of the work programme, the following was noted:

- The Director of Public Health's Annual Report would be added to the agenda for the meeting on 9 March 2017.
- Re-commissioning of the Wellbeing service and Blue Light Collaboration Process were still in the planning stages
- There may be a requirement for an additional meeting in order to consider pre-decision scrutiny items prior to the Executive in March.
- An item on ARC would also be programmed in.

RESOLVED

1. That the work programme, as presented, be agreed.
2. That the above items be noted for inclusion on future agenda's.

44 SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the partnership approach to reducing sexual violence and abuse in Lincolnshire. It also provided information on what role Lincolnshire County Council would take in supporting and protecting the victims and tackling the perpetrators of this crime.

It was reported that sexual violence was a new priority, and there was now more high profile reporting. Some analysis had been carried out using police data and it was found that there had been a 55% increase in sexual violence and abuse offences in Lincolnshire between 2012 and 2014.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the officers present in relation to the information contained within the report and some of the points raised during discussion included the following:

- It was acknowledged that the actual number of rapes which took place nationally was over 200,000 per year, based on only 11% being reported.
- Child sexual abuse would be dealt with by the safeguarding teams as they were very different issues and had different profiles in terms of perpetrators.
- It was queried what the actual figures were for the number of offences in Lincolnshire between 2012 and 2014, rather than a percentage. Officers agreed to circulate this information to the Committee.
- It was reported that a new team had been set up within the Police to engage with migrant groups. This was commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- It was queried what legal duties there were on organisations/groups to require them to report to the authority if sexual violence or abuse was suspected. It was noted that this depended on the age of the person, as there were increased in relation to safeguarding if a child was involved. Safeguarding requirements were also within LCC's standard contracting terms.
- There was a time lag on the reported figures as the most up to date data was from at least two years ago.

- It was queried were the number of incidents would continue to rise as Lincolnshire's population grew.
- It was reported that one of the areas with an increasing number of incidents was the student population, but they would not be included as part of the census. It was noted that this issue was not unique to the University of Lincoln, but they were becoming a very important partner in this work.
- It was thought that these incidents were growing within the student population due to a combination of freedom, no parental supervision and access to alcohol.
- It was confirmed that the team also worked with colleges, and it was suggested that the team also contacted the Youth Council as well.

RESOLVED

That the comments made in relation to the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm