

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SCRUTINY PANEL

Held in the Council Chamber, The Symington Building,

Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

15<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Councillor Brodrick, Chairman.

Councillors: Mrs. Ackerley (substituting for Councillor Rook) Beaty, Beesley-Reynolds (ex officio), Callis, Elliott, Evans (substituting for Councillor Everett), Holyoak, and Tomlin.

Guests: Councillor Hallam (Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing) and Councillor Liquorish (Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services).

Guest Speakers: Clare Weddle (Womens Aid), Sanjay Bulsara (Fire Service) and Paul Hardwick (Leicestershire Constabulary).

Officers: A. M. Hawkins, E. O'Neill, S. Riley and T. Day.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Everett, McHugo and Rook.

26 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2014/15 YEAR

Councillor Beesley-Reynolds opened the meeting and invited nominations for Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 year.

It was proposed by Councillor Beaty and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley that Councillor Brodrick be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 year.

There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that: Councillor Brodrick be elected Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 year.

27 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2014/15 YEAR

Having been elected Chairman for the 2014/15 year, Councillor Brodrick took the Chair. Councillor Brodrick invited nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley and seconded by Councillor Beaty that Councillor Tomlin be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 year.

The being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that: Councillor Tomlin be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 year.

28 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Evans substituted for Councillor Everett.

Councillor Mrs. Ackerley substituted for Councillor Rook.

## 29 UPDATE ON HARBOROUGH HOSPITAL

The Panel was joined by Dr. D. Sharp of NHS England. Dr. Sharp provided the Panel with an update on the progress of the Harborough Hospital project.

Dr. Sharp stated that:

- NHS Property Services was undertaking a procurement exercise to appoint a contractor to undertake works on the St. Luke's project.
- Local residents should not be concerned about the future of the War Memorial at the St. Luke's site; the NHS intends to keep the memorial in place.
- the project timetable is still on target.

The complete statement read by Dr. Sharp can be viewed at the following internet location:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/2014/05/16/st-lukes/>

The Chairman and Panel thanked Dr. Sharp for his attendance and update.

## 30 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REVIEW

Councillor Liquorish, Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, provided the Panel with an introductory summary of the work of the Community Safety Partnership during the previous year.

The Panel was joined by the following guest speakers: Clare Weddle of Women's Aid, Sanjay Balsara of the Fire and Rescue Service and Paul Hardwick of Leicestershire Constabulary.

Questions and comments were invited from the Panel. The following questions and comments were noted:

<b>Question/ Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
Given the austere economic circumstances experienced during recent years, are the Council's partners finding it more difficult to operate?	Yes. The voluntary sector has directly felt the impact of recent cuts in funding.
What is being done to encourage victims of domestic abuse to report the crimes against them?	Womens Aid works closely with the police in order to identify suspects and repeat victims.
Are up-to-date crime figures available?	Yes. Paul Hardwick of Leicestershire Constabulary provided up-to-date crime figures (attached at Appendix A to these notes).
The crime figures reported show a spike in domestic burglaries. What is the reason for this and has the cause of the increase been dealt with?	During the previous year the towns of Market Harborough and Broughton Astley experienced an increase domestic burglaries. Local police have identified the perpetrators of the crimes and have successfully prosecuted them.
Can the public view crime data and, if so, where?	Crime figures are available to the public via the <a href="http://www.police.uk">www.police.uk</a> website. This website allows the public to search for an area by postcode.
What are the police doing to improve contact with the public?	The police are now using social media to connect with residents. Crimes can be reported using both Facebook and Twitter.

The data provided on road traffic collisions appears to show that incidents are clustered in particular areas. Can you provide an example of one of these areas?	The Catthorpe interchange is an example of an area where road traffic collisions tend to be clustered. Most of the collisions are minor shunts caused by the high traffic volumes in the area.
Do vehicle trackers help to reduce vehicle theft?	Yes. More and more cars are being produced with trackers fitted as standard and this is helping to reduce vehicle theft.
Crime is generally low in Harborough District. Why is this?	Over the past year the police put in a large amount of effort to identify and prosecute the main perpetrators of local crime. This was a joint effort between Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire police.
How many police beats are there in Harborough District?	There are four police beats in Harborough District: Harborough, Harborough North, Lutterworth South and Broughton Astley and Walton.
What is a Hate crime?	Hate crimes include, for example, ageism and sexism.
There appears to be an increase in road traffic collisions. How does this compare to other areas?	There has been a national increase in road traffic collisions. Harborough District has had the lowest percentage increase in the local area (Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire).
Does the Fire Authority have any examples of training materials that are used to educate school children?	Yes. Examples of these materials will be made available to the Panel at next year's annual meeting.

The Panel RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

The Chairman and Panel thanked the guest speakers for their attendance.

### 31 SUPPORTING LEICESTERSHIRE FAMILIES: PROGRESS TO DATE

The Chairman welcomed A. M. Hawkins, Head of Community Wellbeing and Partnerships, and R. Wakefield of Leicestershire County Council.

The Panel NOTED that:

- (i) Leicestershire's Programme led by Leicestershire County Council, was established in 2011 as one of the Coalition Government's 16 Community Budgets under the name "Families with Complex Needs", with the dual aims of:
  - Improving outcomes for England's most complex families.
  - Reducing the public service costs resulting from addressing the needs of these families.
- (ii) On 25 March 2013 the Executive approved Harborough District Council's Supporting Leicestershire Families (SLF) model and the county-wide Service Specification and

Operating Model. It also agreed that progress should be reported to Scrutiny on a six-monthly basis. Progress was last reported to the Panel on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013.

- (iii) The District Council has agreed a £65k contribution to the county-wide Supporting Leicestershire Families Programme over three years and an annual contribution of £10k for three years towards the Locality Manager post (which Harborough District had a responsibility to provide). The overall county-wide pooled budget for the programme is £7.86m.
- (iv) The SLF locality delivery model is now well embedded and established within each of the seven District and Borough councils. The District/Borough Council Locality Manager role is enabling whole family approaches to be delivered across locality services. This is leading to significant changes in the way in which families are being dealt with and supported at a local level and alignment of services to support the SLF programme. Examples of which include:
  - Authorising exceptions to housing policies at a local level to enable a flexible response to families with housing issues.
  - changes of Housing processes and procedures to ensure early help is delivered to prevent homelessness or eviction.
  - Information exchange significantly improved between County and District Services.
  - Weight management and nutritional information for families.
  - Warm homes/energy efficiency support to SLF families.
- (v) As at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, across the County, 278 families made up of around 1256 individuals are engaged with the Service. Caseloads are currently averaging six per worker and will rise to an average of 10 per year over the forthcoming six months.
- (vi) Service performance is monitored on a monthly basis, primarily focusing on outcomes for families based on an assessment undertaken by the Family Support Worker. The main issues at start of intervention are:
  - Difficulties in looking after children (87%)
  - Healthy lifestyle Issues (77%)
  - Family heavily or solely reliant on state benefits (72%)
  - Family has financial difficulties (63%)
  - Child with violent or aggressive behaviour in the household (61%).
- (vii) Families who have been engaged with the Service for more than 12 weeks have been reviewed and this has helped the Service to track improvements or other changes in issues assessed. 178 families have been reviewed to date and positive progress is noted across most of the issues assessed particularly in the following areas:
  - child has significant difficulties at or with school and formal education (attendance).
  - children with aggressive or violent behaviour in the home.
  - difficulties in looking after children.
  - Domestic abuse.
- (viii) The Family Star tool is used along side the parent(s)/carers in the household to assess the ten key areas of the parent and parenting abilities.

The Panel RESOLVED to note the progress of the Supporting Leicestershire Families Service made to date.

### 32 UNITARY AUTHORITY FOR THE COUNTY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

S. Riley, Section 151 Officer, introduced the Panel to this report.

The Panel NOTED that:

- (i) in February 2014 Leicestershire County Council published a report titled 'Strategic Financial Case for a Unitary Council. The report had been produced by Ernst and Young.
- (ii) the Ernst and Young report was produced for a fixed fee of £45,230 (excluding VAT).
- (iii) at its Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Leicestershire County Council resolved to not progress any proposals for a unitary authority.

The Panel RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

The Meeting ended at 8.45p.m.