



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday 13 April 2015**

Time: **5.30 pm**

Place: **Reception Room**

For any further information please contact:

Jane Ansell

Members' Services

0115 901 3627

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Mike Hope

Vice-Chair Councillor Gary Gregory

Councillor Patricia Andrews
Councillor Sandra Barnes
Councillor Paul Feeney
Councillor Cheryl Hewlett
Councillor Paul Hughes
Councillor Lynda Pearson
Councillor Stephen Poole
Councillor Colin Powell
Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith
Councillor Nick Quilty
Councillor John Truscott

AGENDA

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- 1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions.**
- 2 To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2015** 1 - 10
- 3 Declaration of Interests.**
- 4 Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/2015** 11 - 26

Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/2015
- 5 Items Referred Under the Constitution or Law** 27 - 28

Items referred to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as required under the Constitution or Law.
- 6 Any other item which the Chair considers urgent.**

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MINUTES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Councillor Mike Hope (Chair)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Councillor Gary Gregory | Councillor Paul Hughes |
| Councillor Sandra Barnes | Councillor Stephen Poole |
| Councillor Paul Feeney | Councillor Colin Powell |
| Councillor Patricia Andrews | Councillor Suzanne Prew-Smith |
| Councillor Cheryl Hewlett | Councillor Henry Wheeler |

Apologies for absence: Councillor Lynda Pearson, Councillor Nick Quilty and Councillor John Truscott

Officers in Attendance: D Wakelin, A Bennett, H Lee

Guests in Attendance

66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Councillor John Truscott, Councillor Lynda Pearson and Councillor Nick Quilty.

67 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

Councillor Powell requested that it be noted that CCTV cameras in Ravenshead were paid for by Ravenshead Parish Council.

68 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

69 PORTFOLIO HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

Rolling Programme of Holding the Portfolio Holder to Account.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Henry Wheeler, Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing, David Wakelin, Corporate Director and Alison

Bennett, Service Manager Housing who were invited to respond to questions on the following areas of the Health and Housing Portfolio:

- Housing and Council tax benefits
- Housing strategy
- Safeguarding.

Advance Questions from Members:

1. What procedures does Gedling Borough Council have in place to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults and children?
2. Additional information on Q3 performance for the following items was also requested:
 - LI313 – percentage of families engaged with the Supporting Families Programme who will not require further support.
 - LI314 - The number of private sector households where Housing Act category 1 or 2 hazards have been remediated
 - LI099 - Percentage of those presenting for housing advice who submit a homeless application. Why is this increasing?
 - NI555 – disappointingly no affordable housing delivered this quarter. Information about the delivery of the 60 units in 2016.
3. What plans are there for ensuring that people are provided with 'housing for life' when plans are agreed?
4. As universal benefits are rolled out is there anything we can do to alert claimants to their responsibility for their council tax?
5. Does Cllr. Wheeler have a view about any closer joining of resources at County level for adult and children's safeguarding?

Question 1

What procedures does Gedling Borough Council have in place to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults and children?

Alison Bennett, Service Manager Housing outlined Gedling Borough Council's response to safeguarding both adults and children informing Members that:

- Safeguarding procedures are laid down by the County Council and it is a referral based system. All referrals are investigated and recorded on a database
- there was a major training programme carried out with officers and Members in 2014 and more training will be made available in 2015

- there were 51 one cases were referred in 2014, in the main referred by leisure centre, public protection and housing needs staff. These cases were referred to either the:
 - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the County Councils multi agency unit which addresses safeguarding issues
or
 - for less serious cases the Vulnerable Persons Panel (VPP) which meets monthly and discusses vulnerable persons who have not met the safeguarding thresholds for MASH. This is attended by officers from GBC, the Police, the Troubled Families programme, Adult Social Care, mental health, Police schools officers, Family Intervention Project workers, Fire and Rescue, Victim Support and Gedling Homes. In 2014, 75 cases were addressed and actioned.

An example of how this referral system works was outlined:

- an initial referral from Housing Needs staff was made to Public Protection, a visit was carried out
- this identified health (person suffering from cancer) and housing condition concerns
- case taken to the VPP, where multi-agency actions were agreed including a deep clean of property organised by Nottinghamshire County Council Social Care
- customer was relocated to temporary accommodation while property was cleared
- a support package was put in place and benefit entitlement sorted
- the customer returned to address with ongoing support
- as a pragmatic solution in view of the likely timescale for the landlord to rectify the problems with the property, the Housing Needs team found another property
- this case required joint working by officers from GBC Public Protection and Housing Needs, the GP, Mental Health workers, Social Care, Nottingham Universities Hospital, Health Visitors and the private landlord.

The Portfolio Holder emphasised the necessity for staff and Members who have any concerns about vulnerable adults and children to refer.

Question 2

- **L1313 the percentage of families engaged with the Supporting Peoples Programme who will not require further support.**

This service is administered by the County Council. Results for this indicator are one quarter behind due to the time taken for the Supporting Families programme to compile the data. Performance is poor, not only have targets been missed but the performance in South Nottinghamshire is worse than elsewhere in the county.

The programme supports children who have six headline problems:

- i. parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- ii. children who have not been attending school regularly
- iii. children who need help
- iv. adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- v. families affected by domestic violence
- vi. parents and children with a range of health problems.

The first phase of the programme ends April 2015 and phase two will be an enhanced programme lasting five years. The Supporting Families Programme will become part of a new structure working with young people 0 – 19 years old.

Members were concerned that the number of families in Gedling turned around is not as good as other areas and the value of the data and requested further clarification regarding:

- what is being measured – what the % figure relates to
 - what improvements are made for young people, what measure is used to cease engagement with the Supporting People programme
 - why performance in Gedling is not as good as other areas
 - what is being done to improve performance?
- **L1314 – the number of private sector households where Housing Act category 1 & 2 hazards have been remediated.**

Members learnt that this is a new indicator and it attempts to measure how much enforcement has been taken to ensure people in private sector housing category 1 & 2 - those with the worst property defects - have had their home returned to an acceptable condition. Enforcement has increased as a consequence of the indicator which has refocused staff on private sector work and brought about a more robust enforcement culture. Over time the number of properties in this category fluctuates, as some properties are improved others will fall into a poor state and require enforcement to improve. As there has not been a whole housing stock survey for some time it is difficult to accurately calculate the number of properties in this condition. Owner occupier properties in a poor state may be an indicator of other problems and may require interventions from other agencies.

Members were concerned about the possibility of tenants being evicted because of enforcement to improve properties and asked for data to be made available.

- **L1098 – percentage of those presenting for housing advice who submit a homeless application, also L1046 Preventing Homelessness.**

There is a whole raft of support and assistance available to try and prevent people becoming homeless. This includes mediating with the landlord or mortgage lender, using the homeless prevention fund or referring to partner agencies for support; all with the aim of helping people stay in their current property. An increase in caseload and the complexity of cases has had a detrimental effect on progress towards target. The impact of budget efficiencies, the decrease in the County Council Supporting People programme plus housing associations becoming more risk adverse have all had an influence on the effectiveness of the service which can receive up to 4200 calls per month.

This has impacted on the team's performance in terms of their ability to complete preventative work, instead the balance has shifted to homeless applications, but the Service Manager has introduced a series of measures to return the focus of the teams work on preventing homelessness, as this is the best solutions for clients.

- **NI 155 – number of affordable homes delivered (gross).**

There have been a low number of net completions in Quarter 3; however there are plans for this to increase. Tendering has been completed for two sites to deliver 60 new affordable homes in summer 2016. In addition the Service Manager is working with Gedling Homes and 12 Housing to progress two other sites in the borough and is planning a further tender round to take place later in the year

Question 3

What plans are there for ensuring that people are provided with 'housing for life' when plans are agreed.

New housing developments are expected to achieve the 'Lifetime Homes' standard. This covers issues such as a downstairs WC, wider doors to enable wheelchairs access and level entry to the property etc. This would deal with the physical aspects of the property, but often a greater factor is affordability. This is being addressed by the requirement that all new homes meet the Code of Sustainable Development level 3; this requires a set level of energy efficiency, making homes more affordable to run and protecting residents from fuel poverty, and the associated health risks of living in cold damp properties. An additional factor that can necessitate people to move is due to the changes in housing benefits. This is evident in the borough following the

under occupancy change (bedroom tax) which was included in the current welfare reforms. The need to downsize has increased the demand for one and two bedroomed properties. The increased demand for smaller properties has been a factor in deciding how best to develop the two sites and commuted sum in the recent tender exercise. The sites involved will deliver predominantly one and two bedroomed homes to address this need.

Question 4

As universal benefits are rolled out is there anything we can do to alert claimants to their responsibility for their council tax?

New claims for Universal Credit will commence in May 2015. This will be administered by the Department of Work and Pensions with Gedling having a supporting/advisory role. Universal Credit claimants will have to make a separate claim for the Council Tax Reduction scheme. It is possible an awareness raising campaign alerting people of the need to claim could be arranged.

Question 5

Does Cllr. Wheeler have a view about any closer joining of resources at County level for adult and children's safeguarding?

Councillor Wheeler explained there was already a close working relationship with the County and that this would continue into the future. Safeguarding training provided by the County was available to the authority and training for taxi drivers is being jointly developed. Gedling Borough Chairs the Vulnerable Persons Panel and makes referrals to the County Council Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The Care Act and the Children's and Families Act will require a strong working relationship and improved use of resources.

Members considered that the loss of the Credit Union representatives based in the Civic Centre was a great loss and that Credit Unions should be promoted to staff and Members. They concluded that even though it was no longer in the building it should still be available to staff and queried if it would be possible for contributions to be taken from salaries.

RESOLVED to:

- I. To thank the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director for their attendance
- I. Request additional information regarding the Supporting Peoples Programme

- II. Request information concerning L1314 the number of private sector household where Housing Act category 1 and 2 hazards have been remediated and data regarding the number of evictions due to enforcement to improve properties
- III. Request information regarding the Credit Union.

70 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The Chair informed Members that the conclusions and recommendations arising from the:

- **Reducing Unemployment in the Borough**
- **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough Scrutiny reviews**

would be discussed at Cabinet on 12th February and a written response to these reports would be available at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee 13th April 2015.

The Transport Links to and within Gedling Borough Scrutiny Review would be having a further evidence gathering meeting prior to developing the conclusions and recommendations arising from the working group.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

71 **ITEMS REFERRED TO THE THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OR LAW**

ITEMS REFERRED TO THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AS REQUIRED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OR LAW

1. Items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Contract Standing orders and Standing orders for dealing with Land
 - i. Notifications received where it has not been possible to obtain 3 quotations for a contract estimated to be between £10,000 and £50,000.
 - **Award of contract for chauffeuring and support of Civic Head.**
 - **Contract for the recovery of VAT (output tax) – non business sporting claims.**
 - ii. Notification of decision to dispose of land or property other than the sale of council houses to sitting tenants pursuant to the right to buy.
 - **Proposal for the sale of disused toilet and land on Carlton Hill.**
 - **Proposed sale of land at Daybrook in connection with the proposed Lidl supermarket.**
2. Items referred to Scrutiny under the Budget and Policy Framework
 - **None received**
3. Items where the Executive proposes to take a key decision without it being published (on the Forward Plan) for at least 28 days. (New Local Authorities Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.
 - **None received**

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

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ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 6.30 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:

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Responses to Scrutiny Review Recommendations

Report to Overview Committee

Title of the review: Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough.

Date review completed: 15 December 2014

Date Presented to Cabinet: 12 February 2015

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Wheeler

Response due to the Overview Committee (28 days): 13 April 2015

Chair of the review group: Councillor Lawrence

Officer supporting the review: Jane Ansell/Helen Lee

Guidance

The final report and recommendations from the above review have been considered by Cabinet and a written response to the recommendations from the responsible Cabinet Member to the Overview Committee is required within twenty eight days of the date the review was presented to Cabinet.

If you need any further assistance in completing this response please contact Helen Lee, Elections and Members Services.

Recommendation 1

1. Gedling Borough Council, in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council and our district collaboration agreement partners, to broker dialogue with NNE CCG and other CCG Leads via the Health and Wellbeing Board to help secure future funding for Elizabeth House services beyond April 2016, focusing on high need individuals that have a high impact on local health services.

To be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☒

A meeting is currently being arranged between the County and the neighbouring districts PCT, CCG and probation by Alison Richmond – Business Support at County Hall to discuss the future arrangements / proposals for Elizabeth House and other units of supported accommodation post April 2016. I should know more once this meeting has taken place, and will advise.

Recommendation 2

Gedling Homes to consider providing a ring fenced number of supported accommodation flats for complex move-on cases referred from Elizabeth House.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ✓

This could be raised with Gedling Homes, or the other housing associations that have stock in the borough, but perhaps better to leave this until we know the likely outcome of the County's spending cuts on supported accommodation.

NB I would advise caution here for the Council as this is a statutory function of the County Council.

Response from Gedling Homes

Gedling Homes' would be happy to work with Gedling Borough Council to look into the feasibility and identify funding streams to support such accommodation in Gedling. We at Gedling Homes' share your members concerns around the lack of move-on supported housing for those with complex needs. It is clear that, with the drastic reduction in Supporting People grant across Nottinghamshire, that this can only get worse.

Response from Framework

Framework would prioritise referrals to its floating support services for this population

Recommendation 3

The potential for Framework /Elizabeth House services to receive Crime and Disorder Partnership funding also should be explored.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ✓

Response from Framework

Supports this recommendation.

For information Notts. County Council has given a strong indication that Elizabeth House will be funded throughout 2015/16 which gives them a year to secure ongoing funding.

Recommendation 4

The Council to explore previous good practice and good practice of other Authorities in influencing developers to ensure the most appropriate housing mix on new developments in the Borough. (i.e. an occasion when the Council worked proactively with a developer on Teal Close (Pepper potting, New Housing Markets).)

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ✓

In terms of the affordable housing requirement, ideally this would mirror the provision on site in terms of the size / style of the properties. A further requirement for the affordable housing is the tenure split between social rented and intermediate market solutions (shared ownership, discount for sale etc) and this enables us to not only address housing need, but also to assist people to take the first steps into home ownership, along with the 'Local Lend a Hand' and the national 'Help to Buy' schemes.

Analysis of the Council's waiting list shows

| No of beds | bedsit | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5+ |
|------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Applicants | 349 | 325 | 234 | 112 | 18 | 8 |

It is important to note that applicants can bid on 2 or 3 bedroomed properties, or 1 or 2 and so there will be an element of double counting, but this clearly shows that there is far greater demand for smaller properties. This has been factored into the Councils' recent tendering of 2 sites and some of its commuted sum, as the majority of those properties will be 2 bedroomed, then 1 bedroomed.

This approach is also fully consistent with the Councils' objective about Place in the Council Plan.

Response prepared by Peter Baguley – Service Manager for Planning

The Development Management service encourages developers and landowners to discuss proposals at pre-application stage, and in relevant cases includes advice from other Council services, including Public Protection and Housing. This

ensures that developers are aware of the potential opportunities to include the most appropriate housing mix in their submitted proposals.

Recommendation 5

The Council and partners to consider holding a stakeholder event to address mixed housing stock, inclusive development and the maximisation and streamlining of specialist advice and support; to include CAB, Credit Union, registered housing providers and anyone with a stake in financial inclusion. – see Tameside Money Inclusion Network (MiNT) best practice.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Partly Accepted ✓

The following extract has been included in the response to provide some background information.

The Tameside Money Inclusion Network MiNT has the following objective.

“MiNT is a partnership of organisations based in Tameside. All of the partners share a vision of giving people the right tools and skills to manage their personal finances and avoid the debt trap.

The MiNT partners cover a wide range of organisations, including housing associations, the local Council, independent advice agencies and the credit union. Our aim is to ensure that everyone living or working in Tameside, irrespective of age, race or gender has access to all the personal finance information that they need.”

At GBC we already have close links with the CAB who provide drop in sessions both at the Civic Centre, local bases and the town centre. The Council pays a grant of £40k p.a. for this service. In addition the Housing Needs Team also pays the Nottinghamshire Housing Advice Service to provide specialist debt and financial advice to residents. So in some terms the ideas of MiNT are already in place at GBC, however there is the potential to work more closely with the local housing providers to see what support / advice they can bring to the table, as well as assessing what current services / support is available to our residents and seeing if better use could be made of that, for example the Kings Money Advice in Mapperley which currently operates in the borough.

Recommendation 6

Ensure that the aspirations and plans of Gedling priority neighbourhoods and Neighbourhood Planning areas and the knowledge of local social housing providers are taken into account in pre application discussions on major development sites.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ✓

Adopted Neighbourhood Plans become part of the Development Plan, and so are material considerations which officers consider as part of the pre-application process. Sharing good practice from other housing sites is also encouraged as part of this process, and has already resulted in schemes being amended at this stage to reflect this

Recommendation 7

The Council to revive the reporting back mechanism for representatives on key outside bodies, i.e. Gedling Homes, which was in place when we had the Committee System.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Partly Accepted ✓

Further work will be undertaken after the election on the roles and accountability of those elected members who sit on such boards.

Recommendation 8

Seek to influence the development of more one and two bedroom properties in the Borough.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ✓

Analysis of housing need evidenced greater demand for 2 and 1 bedroomed properties though there is demand across all property types e.g. 3,4 and 5 bedroomed houses. This knowledge has been used to shape the delivery of the two sites and some of the councils commuted sum which is being used in partnership with Nottingham Community Housing Association to deliver over 60 homes by the summer of 2016, the majority of which will be 2 and 1 bedroomed properties.

Recommendation 9

The Council to continue to raise public awareness and advocate against the dangers of payday loans and encourage more people to invest in the credit union as well as to borrow, which improves sustainability and increases access.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☒

The council has already and will continue to raise awareness and advocate against the dangers of payday loans and direct individuals towards alternative financial advice and support, as well as encouraging investment in the credit union.

This will be delivered and monitored through our service level agreements with the Citizens Advice Bureau, Gedling Community and Voluntary Services and RCAN. These organisations are funded by GBC to promote the credit union and provide either signposting to, or to directly deliver, financial advice and guidance to Gedling residents.

Recommendation 10

10A Greater publicity to be given to the services and facilities provided by local Sure Start Children's Centres in order to increase registration, to include:

Response from Sure Start. Yes we desperately need this as many families do not know we are out there despite our own internal promotion and publicity mechanisms. We were a Labour initiative (like your current elected Council!) and we were set up to help deprived families and so hoped that involvement in the Homeless and Hardship review would yield some recommendations that would get implemented. Also parents/families know that we are part of your review so we will need to feed back any positive outcomes as a result of the review . RE: Publicity in

particular, GBC covers wide area and has many useful communication conduits we would love to 'tap' into.

- 10B Concessionary access provided for Children's Centre staff to use our Leisure and Community Centres to conduct outreach sessions.

Response from Sure Start Yes the cost of room hire is phenomenal at RHLC as we use both sides of the Millennium Suite most weeks! We do not get a discounted rate as it is classed a Leisure Centre but do at the Brickyard CC as GBC CC's offer this for under 5's and over 60's but Leisure Centres don't when you book their rooms. It is a disincentive to keep using the venue to be honest and will be a loss of revenue for you eventually.

- 10C Use of the digital screens in Leisure Centres and the Civic Centre to promote Children's Centre Services.

Recommendation Accepted ✓

This suggestion will be considered and appraised, though there may be the requirement to charge at the public sector rate.

Response from Sure Start Like Contacts magazine below- how do we go about this?

- 10D Health Visitors to promote registration with Children's Centres at the two year child health check.

Response from Sure Start We try to do this anyway as have good links with HV's employed by the NHS also.

- 10E GP Surgeries to be more proactive in publicising and referring patients to Children's Centres.

Response from Sure Start Would we approach the CCG for this or who? I have done this with a local surgery (Trentside Medical group) and persuaded them to put up notice board for us (only because I have link there as a patient!) and my colleague Penny was invited to talk to the Dr's about what we offer but obviously that is only one practice.

- 10F GBC Housing Needs Service to strengthen referral links from their customers to Sure Start services.

Recommendation Accepted ✓

This is an excellent suggestions and one which the team are keen to progress. Whilst the team have a protocol in place to make referrals to the statutory agencies,

formalising a means of encouraging the people they work with to engage with Sure Start Services, would be a valuable addition to the service.

Response from Sure Start How do we go about this- is there a manager I/we could meet with to help do this?

10G Gedling BC Contacts magazine to run a feature raising awareness of what Children's Centres can provide.

Recommendation Accepted ✓

Will be included in the editorial of the July edition.

Response from Sure Start Yes we would like a feature in this publication to promote our services and have previously done this for the GBC Brickyard Community Centre (through Leisure and Sarah Dunn) where we delivered services- we currently deliver services at RHLC as you are aware and will shortly use the BY CC again. We need to get our Netherfield, Carlton and Stanhope services accessed a lot more as aforementioned.

Recommendation 11

Alongside vocational development work currently underway within the Gedling Employment and Skills Group communities and localities to be encouraged to access external funding for the provision of community based training and life skills. An ideal scenario would be for Gedling residents to have access to a year round calendar of local courses and personal development opportunities.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ✓

In terms of funding, there is existing funding within the borough which is readily accessible. The problem we have is identifying the skills needs of our local communities. Once this has been captured then we can start to put provision in place which would include both soft skills (confidence and self-esteem building) then progressing to accredited courses including functional skills. There is already a lot of support and training available around softer skills such as employability, budgeting, managing your own job search and ICT.

There are a number of providers delivering this provision including; colleges, private training providers and the community and voluntary sector. The remit of Employment and Skills Group members would then be to co-ordinate and oversee the delivery of the training to address skills deficits to support local residents in securing sustainable employment.

Once need is identified if a gap in provision exists then we would work with partners

agencies to secure external funding to fill this.

The real test of any provision is residents engaging with these opportunities. The Council and partners have considerable experience in providing training and support events etc., but the key is to ensure residents attend and benefit from this.

Recommendation 12

Improve the level of specialist medical and social support available to those at risk of, and moving on from, alcohol and drug dependency and homelessness.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☐ Partly Accepted ☐ Do not accept ☐

This recommendation has been forwarded to NNE CCG for comments

Awaiting response

Recommendation 13

Training and awareness to be made available to GPs and frontline staff in alcohol /drug dependency issues, sources of referral and treatment.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☐ Partly Accepted ☐ Do not accept ☐

This recommendation has been forwarded to NNE CCG for comments

Awaiting response

Recommendation 14

The Health and Wellbeing Board to reinstate / enhance availability of drug and alcohol recovery programmes that clients can attend locally, supported by Elizabeth house staff and Framework support workers.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☒ Partly Accepted ☐ Do not accept ☐

Response from Framework
Supports this recommendation

Referred to Health and Wellbeing Board/Public Health Committee.

Awaiting response

Recommendation 15

The NNE CCG to consider commissioning informed health advocacy for those in hardship and dependency situations.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☐ Partly Accepted ☐ Do not accept ☐

Forwarded to NNE CCG for a response.

Awaiting Response

Recommendation 16

Under our commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant, enhance support for ex-military personnel at risk of dependency, hardship and homelessness by strengthening referral links to SAFFA and other Service benevolent organisations.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☒

As part of the Armed Forces Community Covenant Action Plan, support for ex-military personnel has been embedded as a cross cutting aim in the Council's service planning process, which means that individual service plans will increasingly need to assess the impact of services in relation to the access needs of military and ex-military clients.

The Covenant Action Plan has already resulted in the provision of outreach sessions by the Royal British Legion, running on a monthly basis from the One Stop Shop. Additionally, the Community Relations Team is currently reviewing its Service Level Agreements with CAB, RCAN and Gedling CVS. Part of that review will include maximising those Service Level Agreements in order to strengthen partnership referral links between the Council, its partners and military support organisations for

the benefit of forces citizens.

Recommendation 17

Consider the provision of DWP outreach at Elizabeth House, and the reinstatement of DWP outreach in Sure Start Children's Centres.

This recommendation has been forwarded to Sure Start and Framework for comments.

Part 1 – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted ☐ Partly Accepted ☐ Do not accept ☐

Response from Sure Start We have not had any communication from DWP (JC+) since they pulled out of our Centres in June 2014. This is proving a real deficit to parents as this service was well used and assisted a lot of parents onto training and employment which helped lift them out of poverty (like your review alleviate hardship)! And JC+ helped further parents career aspirations and thus their positive role modelling to their children. Could GBC make an approach to DWP over this? I know at a local level Cllr J Creamer was trying to follow up the pulling out of JC+ through Vernon Coaker and and also Cllr B Miller is aware and concerned about this too. Also we don't even have named contact for our parents to contact at Station Street the nearest JC+ Service to them!

Response from Framework

Supports this recommendation

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Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 13 April 2015

Author: Election and Members' Services Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To receive information requested by Members and conclude the 2014/15 Scrutiny work programme.

2. RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Councillor Henry Wheeler, Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing, attended the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11th February as part of the rolling programme of Portfolio holding to account. Members requested additional information regarding some of the areas discussed:

I. Performance Indicator L1 313, the percentage of families engaged with the Supporting Families Programme who will not require further support.

Members were concerned that the number of families in Gedling turned around is not as good as other areas, the value of the data and requested further clarification regarding:

- what is being measured – what the % figure relates to
- what improvements are made for young people, what measure is used to cease engagement with the Supporting People programme
- why performance in Gedling is not as good as other areas
- what is being done to improve performance?

Jenny Spencer, Operational Manager (Parenting & Troubled Families), Nottinghamshire County Council and David Jayne, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager will attend the meeting to discuss work undertaken by the Troubled Families Programme.

II. Performance Indicator L1314 The number of private sector households where Housing Act category 1 or 2 hazards have been remediated and data regarding the number of evictions due to enforcement to improve properties.

This indicator is used to monitor the performance of the Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) investigating complaints about housing conditions for those living in rented accommodation. It is used to measure service requests received about both social housing and private rented tenants – the vast majority are private rented tenants.

The EHOs deal with most complaints informally by offering advice and/or asking landlords to remedy defects reported by their tenants. Where complaints are not resolved informally the EHO will arrange a full house inspection to which the landlord is invited. The inspection will assess the house against 29 hazards to health as per the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. Hazards are rated as category 1 or category 2 with category 1 being the most significant requiring the Council to serve Notice to remedy. This performance indicator measures the total number of category 1 or 2 hazards that have been remediated as a result of the council's involvement.

III. The feasibility of deducting Credit Union contributions from Gedling Borough employees' salaries.

Currently two employees have deductions taken from their pay for Credit Union savings. It is available to all current employees.

3. RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into force on the 6th August 2014 and allows any person attending a council meeting which is open to the public, to report the meeting. Reporting includes filming, photographing or making an audio recording. Council has approved a standing order to prohibit recording of a meeting where the public are excluded.

Whilst Members support the principle of transparency this brings to meetings concern has been raised that this may compromise the Council if the recordings are edited in a way that could lead to misrepresentation or misinterpretation of proceedings.

Helen Barrington, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and Alec Dubberley Service Manager, Elections and Members' Services will attend the meeting to address Members concerns and answer questions.

4. COVALENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 2014/2015

Stephen Bray, Corporate Director will provide an Overview of Quarter 3 2014/15 performance and take questions from Members.

5. IN DEPTH SCRUTINY

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee nominated three in depth Scrutiny Reviews to be undertaken as part of the 2014/15 work programme. All reviews in the programme have now been completed.

- **Transport Links to, and within Gedling Borough**

Working group members: Councillors Feeney, Paling, Pearson, Truscott, D Ellis, P Andrews and G Clarke.

Members of this working group have completed their review and the final report and recommendations will be available at the first Overview and Scrutiny meeting after the election.

- **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough**

The report and recommendations of the working group were considered by Cabinet on 12th February 2015 and the Portfolio Holders response is attached at **Appendix 1**.

- **Reducing Unemployment in the Borough**

The report and recommendations of the working group were considered by the Cabinet on 12th February 2015 and a response to the recommendations will be available at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- Consider and comment on the additional information regarding Performance Indicator L1 313
- note the additional information
- consider and comment on the information regarding the recording of meetings

- note the Quarter 3 performance information
- note response received in respect of the **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough Scrutiny Review** and request a six month update on progress of the accepted recommendations.



Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Reports and Notices received by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee as required under the Constitution or Law.

Date: 13 April 2015

Author: Elections and Members' Services Officer.

1. Items referred to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Contract Standing orders and Standing orders for dealing with Land

i. Notifications received where it has not been possible to obtain 3 quotations for a contract estimated to be between £10,000 and £50,000.

- Contract for the preparation of two Conservation Area Appraisals for the Woodborough and Papplewick Conservation Areas.
- Contract with NGi (UK) Ltd for the provision of a bid for funding under the Erasmus + programme to research, share and deliver good/best practice on the employment of apprentices in Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) across Europe on a no- win no fee basis in accordance with the quotation received.

ii. Notification of decision to dispose of land or property other than the sale of council houses to sitting tenants pursuant to the right to buy.

- Proposal for the sale of disused toilet and land on Front Street, Arnold.

2. Items referred to Scrutiny under the Budget and Policy Framework

None received.

3. Items where the Executive proposes to take a key decision without it being published (on the Forward Plan) for at least 28 days. (New Local Authorities Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

None received.

Please note that the above list may not be exhaustive; items may be referred at short notice to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation:

To note the report.