
Meeting	Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	16 October 2018
Present	Councillors Doughty (Chair), Cullwick (Vice-Chair), Cuthbertson, Flinders, Richardson and K Taylor
Apologies	Councillors Warters

30. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cullwick declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 as he currently manages a number of properties including HMO's, however none of these properties will currently be affected by new legislation.

Cllr Richardson added a standing declaration of interest in that he is currently receiving treatment from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS as well as York Pain Clinic, that had already been declared.

31. Minutes

Members requested that the following amendment be made to minute 26 (Update on the Older Persons' Accommodation Programme).

a) Amend line to read as follows:

- "Councillors expressed their desire for best practice, regarding co-production and information sharing with Councillors and residents, to be shared with other departments in the Council"

Members also highlighted that the Standing declarations of interest for this committee should be updated in line with current membership.

Resolved: That subject to the amendment to minute 26 (Update on the Older Persons' Accommodation Programme), the minutes of the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

32. Public Participation

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak under the Council's public participation scheme.

33. Safer York Partnership Bi-annual Report

Jane Mowat, Head of Community Safety CYC and Lindsey Robson, York and Selby Commander, North Yorkshire Police were in attendance to update the committee on the co-ordinated work of the Community Safety team and the Police.

Officers responded to a question from members on an increase in numbers of cases falling under the 'violence against a person' statistic. It was highlighted that there had been a change in the way the statistics were being recorded with harassment and stalking reports now being considered under this category.

It was also highlighted to members that the majority of the increase in numbers of domestic abuse reports could be attributed to more confidence in the police force and an increased willingness within the community to report incidents. Officers also stated the increased success and support of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences have affected the number of reports and that this should also be seen as a positive.

Under further questioning from members regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reporting, officers reported that whilst the police will always respond to a 'threat to life', other reports must then be prioritised. Officers pointed out that their Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers, BID Rangers and Police Officers were using the joint hub at the West Offices to ensure a multi-agency approach was being used to tackle issues such as ASB and that there had been an 80% reduction in the number of ASB cases over the last three years.

Officers also informed members of the work being done to:

- Reduce the drug paraphernalia being found by residents and businesses in the city
- Publicise a new 'text to give' campaign
- Enforce penalties against magazine sellers using inappropriate or aggressive behaviour
- Review the way in which the police and Council share information and the effect that GDPR has had

Officers explained their plan towards the future of portable CCTV cameras used to enforce on fly-tipping cases, saying that they would react to hotspots and deploy resources in areas of the city in which it was most in need.

During a discussion on administrative changes to the Channel and Prevent referral systems, officers pointed out that there had been a pilot associated with Operation Dovetail, to test the feasibility of Local Authorities organising the administration associated with these systems rather than the police. This will most likely come into effect in York at the end of 2019 or early 2020.

During the discussions, there was a recurring theme regarding how to improve the public perception of Anti-Social Behaviour in the city. With reports of the situation improving in York, members and officers agreed that there was an opportunity to join up communications and ensure that consistent messages were being sent to the public. Officers agreed to update members via email on:

- The success of the North Yorkshire Police action on cyclists not using appropriate lights
- The number of needle bins that have been distributed; and
- Information on the actions relating to inconsiderate parking around schools in the city.

Resolved: Members are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report

Reason: To update members on the performance of the Safer York Partnership

34. Update on Community Policing

The discussion of this item took place under Agenda Item 4 (Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Report) with the Head of Community Safety and York and Selby Commander, North Yorkshire Police. Please see Minute 33 for the detail of the discussion.

Resolved: Members are asked to note the update on community policing

Reason: To ensure the committee are kept up to date on the joint working between the North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council.

35. Implementation of the Extension of HMO Licensing

Officers were present to update members on the implementation of the new HMO licensing legislation that came into effect in October 2018.

The implementation phase has included:

- The introduction of a web-based application process
- Ensuring that the teams had enough resources to deal with increased applications (around 700) and to carry out site visits
- A communication strategy around the new legislation

Officers informed members that around 60-70% of applications were now being received online.

Under questioning from members, officers highlighted the potential issues with the continued implementation of this policy. These included:

- Ensuring the quality of paperwork received in applications including gas and electrical safety certificates and working with landlords on code of practice.
- The accuracy of room sizes being declared by landlords; officers also highlighted that room sizes on the verge of not adhering to the requirements would be more likely to trigger an early inspection.

Officers stated that the rough estimate on the amount of rooms to be lost by the Council, as a result of the new minimum requirements, would be 70 out of the 495 currently licensed.

In order for the council to implement this licensing to all HMO's, a need will have to be evidenced. Officers explained that this first three year period will be used to gather this evidence, to strengthen the argument for further extension of licensing.

Officers also explained to members that a number of databases are used to check the accuracy of self certification forms of applying Landlords.

Resolved: Members are asked to note the contents of this report and agree to support the approach outlined in the implementation policy

Reason: So that the Council can ensure that we are meeting our statutory duties.

36. Work Plan

A feasibility study has been requested on the topic of Tenant Engagement, for a potential joint review by the Health Housing and Adult Social Care and Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committees. An update will be brought to the meeting on the 14 November 2018.

A feasibility study has also been requested on the topic of Elective Surgery Criteria and this will be brought to the meeting of the 12 December 2018.

37. Urgent Business

No urgent business was declared.

Councillor P Doughty, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.15 pm].