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Meeting	Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	23 May 2018
Present	Councillors Doughty (Chair), Cullwick (Vice-Chair), Pavlovic, Richardson and Taylor
Apologies	Councillors Mason and Warters

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## **75. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in respect of business on the agenda.

Councillor Pavlovic declared a personal, non pecuniary interest in agenda Item 4 (minute item 78) as he had previously been Director of the York Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (YACRO) from 2011-2014.

Councillor Cullwick declared a personal, non pecuniary interest in agenda Item 4 (minute item 78) as he had previously been a Trustee of YACRO.

## **76. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 26 March and 23 April 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **77. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **78. Homeless Strategy Annual Review 2017/18**

Members considered a report which looked at activity governed by the Housing Act 1996, the Homelessness Act 2002 and the City of York Council's Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018 in

respect of the financial year 2017/18. The primary focus was to report on prevention work, the trends of statutory homelessness and rough sleepers.

The Assistant Director for Housing & Community Safety and the Service Manager Housing Options and Support Team were in attendance to present the report and respond to questions from Members. They highlighted that 74% of actions in the current strategy were complete and that others had carried forward into the new document. They also clarified that many were very ambitious targets and lengthy pieces of work, such as setting up Howe Hill Hostel for Young People.

In response to Member questions Officers stated:

- Some actions which had carried over into the new document were 'big ticket items' which would need several years to complete. Others were ongoing pieces of work and some could not be signed off as completed due to ever changing targets (e.g. Welfare Benefit Systems).
- Additional funding had been sought for Mental Health Hostel Workers but this application had been unsuccessful (page 28, q.). However it was still an ambition to make some of the vacant support worker roles into Community Psychiatric Nurse posts should funding become available.
- There had been a reduction in the number of properties managed by YorHome. This was a result of the housing crisis as several landlords had sold on houses and therefore left the scheme. However, the scheme was always looking to manage more properties.
- Of the 15 people who were currently deemed rough sleepers, 6 or 7 had no local connection. They had all refused assistance to find homes in other areas. A bid had recently been submitted for additional funding to help tackle this issue and put alternative measures in place.
- In relation to rough sleepers accessing primary healthcare, a recent Housing Needs Assessment which surveyed 81 people had not shown this to be an area of concern. The Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (VoY CCG) commissioned a specialist GP service to provide drop in services for these users. There were some concerns over access to dental services, foot care and eye care and this was part of ongoing work with GP's. The Director of Public Health, who was present at

the meeting, suggested that if Members became aware of individuals having problems in this area that it should be highlighted so that an investigation could be carried out.

- The number of people in temporary accommodation was at the lowest figure in 30 years.
- A report would be going to Executive in July/August on Housing Delivery.
- Street Begging was an ongoing issue and not necessarily one linked to rough sleeping. This was part of the Community Safety Strategy and Neighbourhood Enforcement, BID Rangers and the Police would move people on where appropriate.
- The merger of York Arc Light, YACRO and Changing Lives York had resulted in savings due to less duplication of staff and a reduction in Senior Management.

Members thanked Becky Ward, Service Manager Housing Options and Support Team, for her hard work as she was shortly to retire.

Resolved: That the Committee:

- a. Note the progress made by the service;
- b. Agree the priorities and targets for 2018/19.

Reason: To ensure the council continues to meet the statutory duties under Housing Act 1996 (as amended) and Homeless Reduction Act 2017) and supports the most vulnerable in society.

## **79. Healthwatch York Six-Monthly Review**

Members received a report setting out the performance of Healthwatch York over the previous six months.

Sarah Armstrong, Chief Executive of York CVS and Catherine Scott, Policy and Research Officer (Healthwatch York) were in attendance to present the report and answer Member questions.

They highlighted some areas of interest in the report including:

- Publication of the report “Filled to Capacity: NHS Dentistry in York” which had been presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board in March.

- The involvement Healthwatch had in making the 'Live Well York' tool accessible to all.
- The positive response to national Volunteers Week.
- The negative impact that changes to the Welfare Benefit System was having on people's wellbeing was becoming apparent and it was expected that signs of this would continue to appear.
- Healthwatch had dealt with some significant staffing challenges over a short period of time but was using the opportunity to review roles within the organisation.

The Chair stated that he was pleased to see a focus on important areas such as Mental Health and dental access.

In response to Member questions they stated:

- Volunteer numbers were slightly up at around 40.
- There was an overspend between October 2017 and March 2018 which was mainly due to the employment of extra administration staff. This had been a carefully planned decision and would not be an ongoing deficit.
- Recruitment, induction and support of volunteers was taken very seriously. Regular meetings were held between the Volunteer Lead and volunteers offering them support and guidance.
- There were concerns around Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, with only 24% of those surveyed by Healthwatch feeling that CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) had made a positive difference to them.
- Work was being done in conjunction with CYC on Homecare Services.
- Healthwatch had been invited to participate in the Oral Health Improvement Board. This was a good opportunity to push for improvement and represent patients.
- A target area moving forward would be communication with younger people and in particular social media presence.

Resolved: That members note the report.

Reason: To update the Committee on the six monthly performance of Healthwatch York.

## **80. Work Plan**

Members gave consideration to the Committee's work plan for the municipal year.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved subject to the following additions:

1. June – Report on CCG Patient Transport Service
2. June – Home Care
3. September – Delivery of CQC Local Plan Systems Review Action Plan
4. December – Report on progress of CYC Asset/Place-based approach to working

Reason: To ensure that the Committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Councillor Doughty, Chair

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