

Minutes of the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 4th September, 2014 at 6.00 pm
In Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor D Blood (Chair)
Councillor B Cotterill (Vice-Chair)
Councillors N Barlow, C Baugh, D Caunt, A Finch, S Henley, I Marrey, M Mottram and M Wood

Officers:-

G Thomas (Assistant Director, Policy and Improvement (Lead Officer to the Committee)), M Wooldridge (Principal Policy and Performance Management Officer) and J.Jablonski (Assistant Principal Officer(Democratic Services)

Also in Attendance

Chief Superintendent C Johnson – Dudley Local Policing Unit and S Haywood – Head of Community Safety – for agenda item number 5 only.

9 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Harley and D. Russell.

10 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor N Barlow had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor P Harley for this meeting only.

11 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member declared an interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting.

12 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th June, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

Dudley Local Policing Unit and Police and Crime Board – Priorities, Performance and Vision

A report of the Dudley Local Policing Unit's Chief Superintendent was submitted on an update in respect of the Dudley Local Policing Unit and Dudley's Police and Crime Board priorities for 2014/15 and on an overview of the linkages to the role of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following introductions, Chief Superintendent Johnson commented that he had been the Unit Chief Superintendent for ten weeks and had set out the key issues in his report. One change was that the elections for the new Police and Crime Commissioner had now been held and David Jamieson had been elected. It was noted that Mr Jamieson had been invited to attend the meeting of the committee to be held in February, 2014.

Chief Superintendent Johnson also commented that Dudley had the lowest ever crime figures and that these could now be checked and compared with comparable data. Also that HM Inspector of Constabulary had recently reported that the Force listened to people and had a good performance regarding the recording and reporting of crime.

Broadly, performance was on a par with the previous year with the exception of violent crime which was going up. However if domestic crime was excluded performance was on a par with previous years.

The increase in cases was however seen as a positive thing indicating the building of trust and confidence in reporting the crime. Also this was part of the role of the Unit in protecting vulnerable people.

Reference was then made to a television programme to be shown on Monday, the first of four such programmes on the Unit's work, together with partners, in trying to steer offenders away from a life of crime and cut reoffending rates. The focus was therefore on prolific offenders.

A Member then asked a question as to how violent crime was identified. In response Chief Superintendent Johnson referred to the range of such crime from murder to common assault involving pushes and shoves and everything in between. The vast majority of cases were at the lower end of the scale. The methods used to mitigate such crime were then referred to involving offender management in specific areas of activity. The aim was to try and manage situations by designing crime out of the situation.

Such measures and partnership working had led to the reduction in crime referred to earlier.

A Member then asked about the work undertaken in respect of child exploitation and the comment was made that this was treated differently now to previously with a lot of work undertaken through Child Safeguarding and the Child Exploitation Board.

Chief Superintendent Johnson reported that he would be happy to attend a future meeting of the committee together with an Officer from the Child Safeguarding Team to discuss the matter further.

The changes had arisen from the measures taken to restructure the Force so that all offences involving children were now dealt with within one team and in conjunction with the right partnerships.

Results had already been achieved from the new approach.

Regarding the new arrangements the Chair referred to an article on the Force website on the new arrangements which would mean that by the end of 2014 a tenth of all police officers in the West Midlands would work as part of the force's specialist Public Protection Unit.

A Member referred to the work undertaken as part of the unseen work of the Police and considered low crime rates as a double edged matter as the view could be that as there were low rates resources could be diverted away from an area which could then have an adverse effect..

Reference was then made to the provision of custody blocks involving 60 cells.It was reported that this was work in progress ,that it was planned to have three such blocks with the first in Oldbury opening in March,2015.This would impact on staff in Dudley but they should spend fewer hours than currently spent in custody blocks.

A Member then asked about female genital mutilation and whether there was any evidence of this happening in Dudley. In response it was reported that there was a problem in obtaining evidence but intelligence indicated that it did go on. Again this was an instance of a need to further built trust and gain confidence with communities. Reference was also made to the work carried on at the maternity unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Regarding local crime and community safety priorities, reference was made to work to address these priorities being taken forward under six strategic themes outlined in paragraph ten of the report submitted. These needed to be made more tangible and form the basis for consultation with the public.

In this regard reference was made to a forthcoming meeting to be held on 16th September, 2014 at Netherton Arts Centre when the public would have the chance to talk directly to the people who deal with crime and disorder policies in Dudley Borough.

Following consultations held the outcomes would be reported to the Local Police and Crime Board for consideration and implementation in April,2015.

Regarding performance, reference was made to the performance data set out in paragraph 17 of the report. Overall the figures were good however in respect of customer satisfaction with anti-social behaviour more work would be done in this area

In response to comments made by a Member about Police not attending certain crimes it was reported that the Police would not be attending crimes such as vehicle crime. However these would be recorded and dealt with differently. This did not mean that such crime was considered to be unimportant .

Reference was then made to the composition of Police and Crime Board and in response to comments made Chief Superintendent Johnson, the current Chair of the Board, in consultation with Sue Haywood would review the composition in particular in respect of Council directorate attendees.

Arising from a comment made about the extensive refurbishment of Lloyd House Chief Superintendent Johnson undertook to provide a written response as to the costs involved of the works and commented that following completion of the works this would then free up other buildings held for sale

Resolved

That the information contained in the report and as reported at the meeting on future policing priorities for the Borough be noted and that Chief Superintendent Johnson be requested to arrange for the matters indicated above requiring attention to be actioned.

A report of the Lead Officer was submitted on a proposed review of the Council wide utilisation of a range of corporate services to ensure that wherever possible existing corporate Council services were used by all Directorates and that existing council policies were appropriate and adhered to.

During the presentation of this matter it was reported that the proposed focus of the Committees review was those services outlined in paragraph 4 of the report. Paragraph 6 of the report proposed how the review was undertaken.

The first part of the review would be undertaken at the November, 2014 meeting of the committee with conclusions at the February,2015 meeting.

During the consideration of this matter it was agreed that information as to the percentage split between internal and external expenditure on the services to be reviewed be obtained.

Resolved

That the proposed scope of the review of Corporate Services Utilisation, as set out in the report submitted, be endorsed, together with the request for a percentage split between internal and external expenditure on the services to be reviewed.,

15 **Corporate Quarterly Performance Management Report**

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the first Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report for 2014/15 relating to performance for the period 1st April to 30th June,2014.

Arising from an overview of the content of the report by the Principal Policy and Performance Management Officer, Members asked questions to which responses were given, as follows:-

- Arising from consideration of PI 64 – Violence with Injury – it was agreed that the Lead Officer would arrange for consideration to be given to the reporting of figures relating to child sexual exploitation and report back to the committee.
- In relation to PI 501.it was agreed that the actual numbers involved, and not just percentages, be reported..

It was also noted that there were a further three PI's in this category but that they were reported annually.

- Arising from consideration of PI 145 – it was noted that a review was to be undertaken on days lost through accidents and so the nature and causes of accidents would be looked at as part of that review.
- Regarding benchmarking of performance it was noted that some performance indicators were benchmarked against whilst others were not. Waste for example was a national indicator however whilst such national indicators were available for inclusion in the report the figures currently available only relate to data up to March, 2013.
- In relation to Section 5 – Corporate Risk Register - concerns were raised over risks 0002 and 0021 – shown as Major risks but with no supporting detail as to actions being taken to mitigate those risks, the Lead Officer reported that the Audit and Standards Committee were responsible for considering the risk register and at their June meeting had considered risk 0021 therefore details were not duplicated in this report.

The Lead Officer would arrange for this issue to be considered further.

In response to comments made it was also agreed that future reports would include comparative figures for the previous year so that it was clearer as to how performance indicators were progressing.

Resolved

That the information contained in the Quarterly Performance Management Report in respect of performance for the period 1st April to 30th June, 2014, be noted together with the comments made at this meeting and that the Officers indicated undertake the actions referred to above.

The meeting ended at 7.43 pm.

CHAIR