

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**  
**AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 1st November, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Kettle (Chair)  
Councillor Branwood (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Burston, Caunt, Cowell, K Finch, Harley, Ms Nicholls and  
Perks.

**OFFICERS**

Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (Customer Services),  
(Directorate of Corporate Resources), (Lead Officer to the Committee),  
The Drugs and Alcohol Team Manager, (Chief Executive's Directorate),  
The Health Reform Programme Lead, (Directorate of Adult, Community  
and Housing Services) Assistant Director, Quality and Partnership and  
Troubled Families Co-ordinator (All Directorate of Children's Services),  
Head of Accountancy, Principal Solicitor and Miss K Fellows, (Directorate  
of Corporate Resources).

18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of  
Councillors Cotterill and Russell.

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19. **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was reported that Councillor Cowell had been appointed as a substitute  
Member for Councillor Cotterill for this meeting of the Committee only.

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20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the  
Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at  
the meeting.

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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22. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised under this Agenda item.

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23. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2013/14

A joint report of Officers was submitted on the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2013/14 and on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In presenting the report submitted, the Head of Accountancy specifically referred to Appendix A to the report submitted stating that this outlined the proposed savings in line with the terms of reference of the Committee.

Arising from the presentation of the report and Appendix A to the report submitted, Members asked questions and raised concerns as follows:-

- The continuation of spending pressures especially those that related to dementia sufferers and those with learning disabilities and the lack of investment that would be available although the number of sufferers and those with learning disabilities were rising, the proposed investments were not increasing during the next three years.
- Whether the Council were preparing for the above increased numbers.
- The possibility of the Council entering into partnerships with other Councils in order to continue to provide services.
- How the posts included in the savings in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services, Quality and Commissioning were spread across the service areas and concerns in relation to increasing fee income targets for the finance section in respect of their work with the Court of Protection on behalf of people who lacked capacity.

- Where the increase in income from CCTV would come from.
- A query was raised in relation to Dudley Council Plus efficiency savings.

In responding to Members questions, the Health Reform Programme Lead advised that in relation to the increasing dementia sufferers and those with learning disabilities, priorities and additional legislative requirements such as personalisation had to be implemented and the increasing numbers would be reviewed year on year.

He also reported on the Public Health functions transferring from the Primary Care Trust to Dudley Council as from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013 and the policy intention was that Councils with new responsibilities for health improvement would encourage people to keep themselves well and so avoid the need for service in the Dudley Borough.

The Health Reform Programme Lead undertook to provide Members with figures relating to the increased number of adults with learning disabilities and those with dementia.

He stated that in relation to the proposed savings for the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services the Quality and Commissioning Division had been remodelling and realigning the commissioning of services and work had been undertaken in relation to the commissioning of ICT Services.

It was also reported that the way that the Adult Social Care Finance Team provided services was coming into line with the practices in other Authorities in so far as the income provision for care services was concerned.

The Health Reform Programme Lead stated that Reports had been submitted to Cabinet during preceding years in order to support changes in Community Centres in order that they became even more independent where that was required including in Administration services in order to improve and update the service and it was hoped that this would achieve greater control over the services provided.

In relation to the 9.5 posts referred to in the report submitted, it was reported that those would need to be identified and would fall within the areas of the services outlined above.

The Health Reform Programme Lead reported that the administration of the affairs of those who lacked capacity were dealt with by the Office of the Public Guardian which had been created some years ago and a change in the Council's practices in relation to this administration was required which would bring the Council in line with practices elsewhere.

In relation to the income streams from CCTV, the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources, (Customer Services) reported that the Council now provided CCTV services to Stourbridge Bus Station with bus station images being monitored on behalf of Centro.

He also reported that contracts for a new queuing system and new payment kiosks had been entered into at Dudley Council Plus which had generated further income for the Authority.

In responding to a further question from a Member the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources, (Customer Services) stated that there were now less than two Council employees directly employed on CCTV work.

Members also raised concerns in relation to the amount of reserves outlined in the report submitted.

A motion was also proposed and seconded and agreed at the meeting.

## RESOLVED

- (1) That arising from consideration of the information contained in the report and Appendix A to the report submitted on the Cabinet's Revenue Budget Strategy proposals for 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy the Cabinet be informed that Members of the Committee do not accept the budget proposals contained in the report submitted for the following reasons:-
  - (a) The unrealistic pressure figures for years two and three on pressure areas.
  - (b) The lack of detailed explanation of the savings at this meeting.

## 24. "TROUBLED FAMILIES" IN DUDLEY

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on an initiative of the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Troubled Families and its implementation in Dudley.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted by the Health Reform Programme Lead Members asked questions and Officers responded as follows:-

The Assistant Director of Quality and Partnership stated that the definition “families with children on the edge of care” related to those children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan and it was currently unclear as to how the payment by results referred to in the report submitted would become payable.

The Troubled Families Co-ordinator advised that the Troubled Families Programme Framework stated that payment by results would become payable should work with troubled families result in those families who were receiving benefits no longer having to claim these with those children who were not previously attending school moving back into education and a reduction in crime and anti social behaviour due to work conducted under the programme. He also stated that payment by results would become payable by the Council ensuring that those children who remained at home were residing in a safe home environment.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Partnership referred to the Council’s Community Intervention Project which was operated by Children’s Services under the management of the Assistant Director for Children and Families stating that those employed to work with troubled families would form part of this service, with an assertive and robust approach being taken to deal with that part of the service and all staff working together to address the problems of troubled families with new staff dealing with the more challenging work of the service. It was sincerely hoped that the service would make a difference and the enormity of the challenge was accepted.

He stated that some of the families would require staff to work with them over the whole three year period of the project which would result in some families being carried over to subsequent years of the project.

In relation to prioritising families he reported that there was in place an Organisation Group, linking each family to the three criteria referred to and that initially the family would need to satisfy all three criteria in order that intervention work could be commenced however it was hoped that families meeting two and following this one of the criteria would be provided with intervention work.

In relation to funding the project, the Health Reform Programme Lead reported that it was a three year funded project and details in relation to the funding stream once the three year period had elapsed had not been provided by Central Government.

The Assistant Director of Quality and Partnership further reported that the funding was non ring fenced and could be carried over from year one to years two and three of the project.

It was reported that the Project had initially been funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions and it was the intention of the Council to investigate whether some of the funding could be provided to other partners to work with troubled families effectively in order to improve the lives of those families, however no final decision had been made in relation to the above possibility.

In responding to a further question from a Member the Assistant Director of Quality and Partnership advised that the new posts would initially be offered on a one year fixed contract basis.

In relation to sanctions in order to ensure that those families identified engaged and worked with the key worker allocated to the family he advised that although there would be sanctions available through the Court system as far as offenders were concerned no further sanctions had been identified, although it was accepted that there would need to be a degree of negotiation with those families identified.

Members expressed support for the project with the sincere hope that it would make a difference to those families identified.

The Health Reform Programme Lead thanked Members for their appreciation and support in relation to the project.

In responding to a question from a Member in relation to the posts being offered the Assistant Director of Quality and Partnership advised that a former Police Officer, Career Soldier and Parenting Support Worker all of whom had past experience working with families had been identified for the posts advertised.

The Chair requested that information be distributed to Members relating to the percentage of troubled families identified in comparison with the number of households in the Dudley Borough.

The Chair wished Officers luck and success with the project.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Department for Communities and Local Government Troubled Families initiative and its implementation in Dudley, be noted.
- (2) That Members comments referred to above, be noted.

25. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REQUEST THE ATTENDANCE OF ANY SAFE AND SOUND BOARD MEMBER OR THE PROVISION OF ANY INFORMATION AT A FUTURE MEETING IN RELATION TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME.

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Following discussion on this issue it was:

RESOLVED

That the attendance of any Safe and Sound Board Member or the provision of any information at the next meeting be not pursued.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm.

CHAIRMAN