

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

March 2015

## 1. Introduction

This report summarises the activities of each overview and scrutiny committee during recent meetings. The individual reports from the scrutiny chairs are referenced as follows:

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| <b>Section 2</b> | Cllr Brian Oosthuysen, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee      |
| <b>Section 3</b> | Cllr Steve Lydon, Chairman of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee      |
| <b>Section 4</b> | Cllr Robert Bird, Chairman of the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee       |
| <b>Section 5</b> | Cllr Tim Harman, Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| <b>Section 6</b> | Cllr Colin Hay, Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee                     |

## 2. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – Cllr Brian Oosthuysen

### 2.1 Upcoming meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27 March 2015. At that meeting members will be considering the following items:

- An overview on Risk Management
- Strategic Performance Management 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2014/15
- Performance Report : Strategy and Challenge
- Performance Report: Enabling and Transition
- Finance Update

### 2.2 Scrutiny task group

Members have agreed to the setting up of a scrutiny task group looking at recruitment and retention of children's social workers. The group met on 4 March to consider their work plan and will be meeting again on 26 March 2015.

### **3. Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Steve Lydon**

#### **3.1 Adult Safeguarding Recommendation**

At the meeting Council on 26 November 2014 I presented a recommendation from the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HCOSC) on Adult Safeguarding. At that time some members of the Council raised concerns around some of the wording and given the level of feedback, at that time, I decided to withdraw the motion with a view to (re)submitting the recommendation to a future meeting of Council.

Following the 26 November 2014 Council meeting I sought advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Commissioning Directors for Adult and Children's Services on the wording of the recommendation.

I am now resubmitting the (revised) recommendation and ask that Council resolves to support this recommendation. This revised wording has been shared with HSOSC members.

#### **The recommendation to Council is: -**

- ⇒ That Councillors are required to champion the wellbeing of their constituents and raise awareness of adult safeguarding;
- ⇒ That they play their part in working with communities to assist with the prevention of abuse to keep vulnerable adults safe from harm;
- ⇒ That they have a duty to report a concern should they become aware of individual cases of abuse through their work with constituents;
- ⇒ That the Council recognises the need to respect confidentiality and data protection issues; and asks the Cabinet to ensure there is a policy in place that enables local members to be informed about issues of serious concern within their divisions;
- ⇒ That training or briefing sessions are held with district colleagues at varied venues across the County on Safeguarding.

#### **3.2 Draft Director of Public Health Annual Report 2013/14**

The committee received a detailed presentation on this report from the Interim Director of Public Health (DPH). The report outlined the public health challenges for

Gloucestershire and services currently commissioned to support these issues. The committee was clear that prevention was a key element of public health work.

The Interim DPH informed the committee that the Public Health Team was working on moving away from the traditional public health grant headings as they do not really describe what we do. The new headings would include the core offer, services commissioned (broken down to universal and targeted services), and specialised services. The Interim DPH also informed members that it was important to understand how the budget related to age, place and need.

The committee did agree that it would have been preferable for this report to have been published in 2014. Members did however acknowledge the difficulties that the council had experienced in appointing to the DPH position. The committee was clear that to support this work a county wide health inequalities strategy needs to be developed, and the Annual Report should demonstrate a clearer link between projects and the delivery of goals and targets.

For information this report will also be received by the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board on 24 March 2015.

I would recommend that all members read this report to better understand the public health challenges in Gloucestershire.

### **3.3 Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS)**

The committee received an item on this service in July 2014. The purpose of receiving this item now was to understand whether performance has improved. It is important to note that the contract with Arriva Transport Solutions Limited (ATSL) is across four Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) areas (Gloucestershire, Swindon, Bath and North East Somerset and Wiltshire).

The report outlined the detailed work that has been undertaken with ATSL to address problem areas. Whilst there remain challenges, it was good to note the activity that is in place to address these. It was also good to note that there has been a reduction in the number of complaints received.

Members were informed that the NEPTS ambulances are able to use bus lanes where there is a passenger on board. This is helpful as getting the patient to their appointment on time is a key indicator. The NEPTS ambulances are not however able to use bus lanes when there is not a passenger on board. This seems to be counterintuitive as getting to the next call on time is just as important as getting to the hospital on time. The committee agreed that it would write to the Government Minister for clarification on this matter, and to urge that NEPTS ambulances are allowed to use bus lanes, passenger or not.

### **3.4 Progress Report on Urgent Care**

This report described the progress made by the Chairs of the Health Trusts, and the council's Cabinet Member for Older People in response to the issues raised at the committee's extraordinary meeting on 16 December 2014.

Dr Helen Miller, Chair Gloucestershire CCG (GCCG), informed members that she felt that all partners were working well together for the benefit of patients and the public. This view was supported by the Chairs of the Trusts in attendance at the meeting. It was good to note that some of the identified actions are already having a positive impact on the service.

The report demonstrated a clear purpose and commitment to improve. The report contains a lot of detail and I recommend all members to read it to gain a clearer understanding of the work being undertaken.

The committee will continue to receive regular updates on this matter.

### **3.5 Adult Social Care and Public Health Qtr 3 Performance Scorecard**

The Director of Adult Services took the opportunity to inform committee members of the outcome of the recent Adult Case Review relating to financial and sexual abuse at a Supported Living Home. (This report is available on the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Website.) The committee was pleased to note that these residents had now been successfully re-homed. There had been concern that the re-housing had taken some time, however, members were informed that a significant factor here was that these residents had wanted to stay together and it therefore took some time to identify suitable accommodation.

Members remain concerned with regard to performance against targets relating to drug and alcohol services. These services are due to be re-commissioned and the committee will be discussing how to engage with this process at its next work planning session.

### **3.6 GCCG Performance Report**

The committee tends to focus on those areas that are underperforming but it is important to note that there is a lot of good performance alongside some areas of underperformance. The committee remains concerned about ambulance response times in the rural areas. However, as the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ambulance service meets on 13 March 2015 members' questions will be taken forward to that meeting.

### **3.7 Healthwatch Gloucestershire (HWG) Patient and Public Feedback Qtr 3 Report**

The committee welcomed this report which gives qualitative information to complement the quantitative data provided by the GCCG Performance Report. It was interesting to note that the feedback on A & E services indicated that whilst people may not be happy with the wait, there were no concerns being raised with regard to the quality of care received.

### **3.8 GCCG Chair/Accountable Officer Report and Director of Adult Services Report**

The GCCG has been approved to take on delegated responsibility for NHS England specified general medical (GP) commissioning functions from 1 April 2015. The GCCG believe this will enable them to shape services to better meet local need.

The committee was also informed that the Better Care Fund (BCF) submission has been approved. It is important to remember that this is not new money.

## **4. Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Rob Bird**

### **4.1 Barriers to Cycling Study**

Following a motion to full council at its meeting on 10 September 2014, (Motion 723 Promoting Cycling), the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of 'potential barriers to cycling' on cycle routes across Gloucestershire. Atkins Highways and Transportation Consultants were subsequently commissioned to undertake a study of 'major barriers to cycling' including 'possible solutions'. Having considered the outcomes from the study at its meeting on 14 January 2015, the committee has since requested that additional work be undertaken, extending the study to include barriers to cycling in rural areas. The study report, (as presented at that meeting), plus the outcomes from the additional work, to be fed into the Local Transport Plan Review, with an update to the committee at its meeting on 13 May 2015. Please refer to the following link to view the 'Barriers to Cycling Summary Report'

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=7853&Ver=4>

### **4.2 Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service**

On 14 January 2015, (having received a full and in-depth presentation on the development of the Integrated Risk Management Plan at an earlier meeting), the committee agreed to write to the Chief Fire Officer to convey its satisfaction with the work that had gone into developing the Integrated Risk Management Plan and

associated Year 1 Implementation Plan. Having considered the consultation document for the Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, the committee confirmed that it was content with the direction of travel the fire service was taking, and in the overall development of the plan. It was felt that, at this stage in the process, a letter was probably more beneficial than submitting a formal response to the consultation. At its meeting on 4 March 2015, the committee agreed the contents of the letter and noted that it would have an opportunity to comment on the Year 1 Implementation Plan during presentation of the Chief Fire Officer's report at all future committee meetings. Members commended the Chief Fire Officer on the report presented at the 4 March 2015 meeting.

#### **4.3 Cotswold Flood Action Group – 12 Month Review**

In March 2014, following concerns from Cotswold District Council, and at the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of flooding and drainage issues in the Cotswold District during 2012/13. Cllr Vernon Smith, as Chairman of the Flood Action Group, gave an in-depth overview on the events and activities that have taken place during the past year, and on the measures put in place to prevent further flooding. Commending the work of the individual flood project groups and the involvement from partner organisations and relevant stakeholders, the Cabinet Member believed considerable progress had been made during the past year, and was hopeful that the model used for the review would continue to provide an effective framework from which to enable the various agencies to make further progress in 2015/16. The committee welcomed the update and agreed that the Flood Action Group should continue its good work.

#### **4.4 Congestion on the A40 West of Gloucester**

Following a request to consider the feasibility of undertaking a review on proposals relating to a Third River Severn Crossing, the committee received a report on congestion issues along the A40 (Highnam to Gloucester). Please refer to the following link to view the contents of the report, (reported at item 7 of the agenda): -

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=7854&Ver=4>

Having noted the information, members requested draft terms of reference and a one page strategy on the establishment of a scrutiny task group from which to 'Better understand the wider issues of access to and from the Forest of Dean District'. The terms of reference to be considered at the committee meeting on 13 May 2015.

#### **4.5 Forthcoming issues**

Following consideration of the Commissioning Directors Report, and having received information on matters likely to result in executive decisions during the next 6 months, the committee agreed to add the following items to the committee work plan:

i) Resource levels for the Commons and Rights of Way Committee (13 May 2015); ii) Results of the Local Transport Plan Review (13 May 2015); iii) Waste Arisings in Gloucestershire, including an update on the performance of each district authority (15 July 2015).

Full details of the Commissioning Directors Report, (item 7 of the agenda), can be viewed at the following link:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=7854&Ver=4>

Having been informed that the meeting on 13 May 2015 would be the last meeting of this committee, it was agreed to consider an overview on the work of the committee during 2014/15.

## **5 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Tim Harman**

### **5.1 Report from the Corporate Parenting Group (CPG)**

It is part of the committee's remit to scrutinise the work of the CPG. This report detailed the activity undertaken by the CPG and the current data on our children in care. The committee was pleased to welcome the newly appointed Service Leader for Children in Care, Sharon Davies, to the meeting to inform and engage with members.

The committee could only agree with Ms Davies that we should want the same for our children in care as we would for our own children and that we should act as 'pushy parents'. Members were pleased to note that 44 out of the 53 council members have signed up to the Corporate Parenting Pledge; and encourage the remaining 9 members to sign up soon.

It was good to see that placement stability has been improving since August 2014. Fewer children are moving as frequently, and more are staying in a stable placement longer. Educational attainment remains a concern and the Virtual School continues to work hard to support our children in care.

The committee was pleased to note that Ambassadors for Vulnerable Children and Young People are used effectively, in particular that they take the lead on training practitioners on the engagement of children and young people in assessment and planning.

The committee welcomed the work being progressed by the CPG, and will continue to receive regular reports from this group.

## **5.2 The Fostering Service**

The committee was pleased to welcome Delia Amos, Service Leader Fostering and Adoption Services, to the meeting to engage with members on this matter. The committee received a detailed presentation from Ms Amos; the slides are available on the council website.

Although placement stability is improving there is still work to be done to continue to reduce this. Of particular concern is the insufficiency of placements for 'older' young people and children with high level needs. This is an area of concern for the committee and we shall continue to closely monitor this through our regular performance reports.

The committee discussed whether the council should (re)establish in house provision for those children and young people with high/complex needs rather than utilise external placements. This is clearly not a straightforward issue and members are aware that this is something that senior officers have debated themselves. I expect that this is an issue that the committee will return to in due course.

The committee was pleased to note that the support to foster carers is taken very seriously and a range of support is available to them. Work is also in place with the Children and Young People Service from the 2Gether NHS Foundation Trust to develop additional support and training for carers for young people who deliberately self harm.

## **5.3 Safeguarding Framework Update**

OSMC will be aware that the committee uses this framework to provide a systematic and methodical approach to the scrutiny of the safeguarding system. This update sets out the next 12 months of activity. It is important to note that this approach does not preclude the committee from bringing forward other safeguarding issues through the year.

## **5.4 Qtr 3 Performance Scorecard and Report**

The spotlight on performance for this meeting was NEET (Not in employment, education or training). The presentation slides are available on the council website. NEET performance in Gloucestershire is good and continues to go in the right direction, even in the more vulnerable groups of young people. This is being achieved through strong partnership working.

Members are concerned with performance against the timeliness of child protection case conferences. One of the challenges is around attendance of partners, in

particular from schools when conferences fall within the school holidays. Officers are working with partners on this matter,

The committee agreed that the spotlight for its next meeting will be the Virtual School.

## **5.5 Revenue Budget Monitoring**

The committee was pleased to note that the revenue budget was now showing an underspend and congratulated officers on their hard work in getting the budget to this position. It is anticipated that at the financial year end the budget will still be in an underspend position.

## **6. GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Cllr Colin Hay**

### **6.1 Current Issues**

The scrutiny committee last met on 18 December 2014, where members received a short update on the issues and activities that might require a decision by the Joint Committee during forthcoming months. The information was presented on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, (as the Accountable Body), and by Chairman of the economic development company Gfirst and Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Details of the update reports can be viewed at the following link:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=731&MId=8039&Ver=4>

Members were informed that the Joint Committee was particularly interested in the process for developing the Growth Deal 'pipeline' of projects, and in having early sight of the proposed scoring and weighting system to be used to prioritise such projects. Key documents will be shared with the Joint Committee, as and when they are further developed. The committee also received updates on the Gloucestershire Business Rate Pool; Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL); Gloucestershire Local Transport Board; Strategic Rail Issues; and Broadband Delivery. Throughout the discussion, members reiterated the importance of district authorities being better informed of the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership and of the activities and progress being made to address economic growth in Gloucestershire. Members requested that the scoring and weighting system used to prioritise Growth Fund projects be shared with local authorities.

David Owens, Chief Executive of Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership, gave a detailed summary on the role and current position of the Local Enterprise Partnership,

including details of the next round of bidding on the Single Local Growth Fund. Outlining the timescales as set by central government for the prioritising and development of pipeline projects, the Chief Executive explained that frequent short lead times often created significant challenges for the LEP.

## **6.2 Wednesday 18 March 2015**

Conscious that the 2 committees are currently in the early stages of their work, it has recently been agreed that the Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee meet immediately after the Economic Growth Joint Committee on Wednesday 18 March 2015. This decision will allow scrutiny members to consider presentation of the reports to the Joint Committee in the morning, before discussing the contents of the reports, (plus any other issues of concern), at the scrutiny meeting later the same day. The agenda for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting has been published on the Gloucestershire County Council website and can be viewed at the following link.

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=731&MId=8067&Ver=4>

The scrutiny committee meeting will be held in the Cabinet Suite at Shire Hall at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 18 March 2015. (The Joint Committee meeting will be held at 10.00 am earlier the same day). To view the committee papers for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee meeting, please go to the following link: -

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=725&Year=0>

## **6.3 Council Motion – Supporting Community Pubs**

At its meeting on 18 December 2014, the Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee considered a motion submitted to the county council meeting on 26 November 2014, including a request for: -

*“The Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee to explore ways in which Gloucestershire County Council can support local pubs and restaurants and how the council can support the creation of pub hubs in local communities to prevent pubs from closing in Gloucestershire. The Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee to report its findings to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Gloucestershire’s Local Enterprise Partnership and all relevant business organisations in Gloucestershire”.*

During the discussion on 18 December 2014, it was suggested that the motion be amended to read ‘Gloucestershire Councils’, and agreed that officers would commission an initial piece of work from which to; i) analyse the state of pubs and

restaurants across the county; ii) how this compared to other areas; iii) how this might support initiatives already in existence, and iv) what contributions could be made to promote economic growth in Gloucestershire. It was later suggested that the committee make recommendations to the Joint Committee to consider this matter as a county wide issue. An information report to be considered at the scrutiny committee meeting on 18 March 2015.

#### **6.4 Future meetings**

Items added to the scrutiny committee work plan include; (i) update on the Community Infrastructure Levy and, (ii) the impact of local planning policy and new housing development on Broadband Delivery. In addition to the items on the committee work plan, a request has been made for more information on the Gloucestershire Growth Hub, (the partnership arrangement between the University of Gloucestershire and GFirst LEP). Noting the request, officers agreed to consider arranging a meeting at the University of Gloucestershire's Oxstalls Campus in Gloucester. The dates of future meetings to be confirmed and agreed on Wednesday 18 March 2015.