

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (EXTERNAL) COMMITTEE

Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG

2 March 2016 at 2 pm

PRESENT: Councillor S Inch (Chair)  
Councillors: P Pennington, A Eastman, K James, T Johns, I Parker,  
A Whittle, P Hackett (substituting for Cllr Langton-Lockton)  
  
Non Elected Representative: Mr P Topham

ALSO PRESENT: V Green – Strategic Manager (Services)  
S Squire - Democratic Services Officer  
  
T Birtwisle – Community Safety Lead, Safer North Devon  
K Morne – Anti-Social Behaviour Lead, Safer North Devon  
  
Dr A Moore – Consultant Psychiatrist & Clinical Director of Adult  
Mental Health Services  
  
Councillor D McGeough

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

61. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors J Langton-Lockton and R Darch.

62. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor S Inch, seconded by Councillor Hackett and –

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 6, Abstentions 3)

63. ACTION LIST

- In answer to a question regarding delivery of the two new minibuses for Holsworthy Community Transport, Cllr James agreed to provide information at the next meeting and confirm if the minibuses had been delivered.

- The Strategic Manager (Services) advised that she had received a copy of the S106 Agreement regarding release of funds for the provision of a shuttle bus in Holsworthy and she would look into this.

64. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Declarations of interest were made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

65. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

66. URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

There were no urgent matters.

67. COMMUNITY SAFETY / SAFER NORTH DEVON

The Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Lead and Anti-Social Behaviour Lead, Safer North Devon.

Members were informed of the following:

- The door staff at Caesar's Palace are employed and funded by Safer North Devon for an hour after the club closes to prevent any problems and resolve any issues in the vicinity of the club. Specialised 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training had been provided.
- £55k was received from TDC and £10k from the Police & Crime Commissioner towards Safer North Devon in 2015/2016
- Safer North Devon attend multi-agency meetings and deal with cases under the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 which gives local authorities and police services duties to work together to implement reduction strategies and to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime and fear of crime in the community
- A Safer North Devon vehicle had been bought with funds jointly from TDC and North Devon Council
- Current projects include work on 'One Bideford'
- Letters and warning notices are sent to individuals and groups regarding issues as they arise
- The BATAC machine is kept by Safer North Devon and used at events such as Junior Life Skills e.g. for illustrating the effect of 'beer goggles'

It was asked if figures could be provided for the number of individuals and families that were helped by Safer North Devon during the year 2015/2016. The Anti-Social Behaviour Lead agreed to provide these figures.

In answer to a question, the Strategic Manager (Services) advised Members that following a review of Safer North Devon by this committee earlier in the year it was felt there was a need to concentrate on local issues. Restructuring had been taking place at TDC and the TDC Lead Community Safety Officer would be working with partner agencies and arrangements were being put in place locally for work to continue going forward.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Lead and Anti-Social Behaviour Lead, Safer North Devon for their presentation. The Safer North Devon Officers left the meeting.

A discussion followed on the proposed new TDC Community Safety structure and plans going forward. It was asked if the committee could receive a presentation detailing this. The Strategic Manager (Services) advised that this committee have a duty to act as the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee under section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006. She added that a report would be expected in the first quarter of the new municipal year and this would be presented by the TDC Community Safety Lead Officer. It was requested that the presentation include details of 'One Bideford'.

## 68. HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SOCIAL CARE

### **Health and Social Care Services fit for the future: The case for change**

Councillor Pennington presented a Stakeholder letter 'Success Regime' and informed Members that there was an attached Case for Change document which he advised contained useful information and urged Members to read. It was suggested Members could bring comments back to the next meeting.

A discussion followed on the reduction in inpatient beds at community hospitals and also concerns regarding changes at North Devon District Hospital and the reported slow response times from the Ambulance service. It was suggested these could be highlighted to the local MP.

It was proposed by Councillor Pennington that a letter be sent to the local MP asking:

For details of the amount of funding, and to investigate the level of funding given to health and social care services in the Torridge area and also to investigate the inequality of funding especially with regard to the ageing population.

Councillor Whittle seconded the proposal with the addition:

To ask for details of the pay structure with regards to the percentage of money being spent on wages in the different employment groups e.g. management, administrative, medical.

Resolved:

That the motion and addition be carried

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

Councillor Hackett declared a personal interest as his partner works for a care home.

A discussion followed regarding the closures of a number of small care homes in Devon. Possible solutions to the lack of funding were put forward including encouraging the general public to voice their concerns.

It was agreed the proposals from this item and detailed issues would be integrated and put forward for discussion at a meeting to be arranged with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Strategic Manager (Services) and the Lead Member Health & Wellbeing/Community Safety.

69. CONSIDERATION OF FORWARD PLAN 2015/2016

Members considered the Forward Plan for 2015/2016.

The Strategic Manager (Services) advised Members that North Devon Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee have expressed an interest in attending the next meeting for the item on Water & Environment issues. Members agreed that North Devon Council Members be invited to attend the next meeting for this item.

The Forward Plan for 2015/2016 was duly noted.

The Chair suggested a change in Agenda order with item (10) Forward Plan 2016/2017 to be taken after item (11) Legal Highs, and this was agreed.

70. LEGAL HIGHS (NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES)

Members received a presentation from Dr Andrew Moore and noted that this followed on from a presentation he gave to Committee 12 months ago. He advised that his work now included involvement with 'One Ilfracombe'. Dr Moore thanked Members for inviting him and that he was encouraged that the Committee were taking an interest in mental health care in the North Devon and Torridge area.

Reference was made to national mental health issues and the release of two large reports in the last month, which highlighted the lack of resources. Members were informed that a number of the services involved complex systems. Details were provided from the Mental Health Taskforce which recognised the lack of resources and also the implications of mental health issues impacting on the economy through loss of work days due to sickness.

It was noted that on occasions patients are transported out of the county to receive the appropriate care.

Dr Moore advised that the proportion of patients presenting with problems on psychiatric wards due to legal high use was between 10% and 20%.

Councillor Parker left the meeting at 3.45pm.

The effect on local residents by the closure of the legal highs shop in Bideford was discussed but it was noted that there were concerns about the legal highs being available elsewhere in Torrridge through different outlets and that they were also available over the internet.

'One Ilfracombe' was discussed and that the agencies in the town work well together. It was noted that Councillor B. Boundy had been appointed Mental Health Champion for TDC.

The Strategic Manager (Services) reported that the formal launch of 'One Bideford' would be in April. She added that the focus for One Bideford was the Town Team and the 'Living Well' element of the One Ilfracombe project was not under consideration for Bideford at present. Members noted that there were plans to develop a 'One Holsworthy' and 'One Torrington'.

A discussion followed on crisis care and the 'Zero Suicide Collaborative'. Dr Moore advised that social isolation was a significant risk factor in high mortality rates.

It was asked if Dr Moore could be invited to the 'One Bideford' meeting and the Strategic Manager (Services) replied that Bideford Town Council was the lead agency. It was agreed that a request would be put forward to them.

Councillor James left the meeting at 4.10pm.

71. REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN ITEMS

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Pennington and –

Resolved:

To defer this item to the next meeting.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 4.15 pm

Date .....

Chair .....