



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.30pm to 6.20pm

20 March 2014

Present: Councillors Stephenson (chair), Maxwell (vice chair), Bradford, Brimblecombe, Brociek-Coulton, Carlo, Galvin, Grenville, Howard, Lubbock, Sands (S) and Storie

Apologies: Councillor Manning

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2014.

3. HEALTHY CITY

Members were given a copy of the health profile for Norwich along with an explanation of the health care boundaries within Norfolk.

The leader of the council addressed the committee. She explained that in the early phase of the health and wellbeing board, Norwich decided that working with partners would be key. The locality board strengthened this working relationship.

The policy, performance and partnerships manager introduced the report. He made members aware of an error on page 22, paragraph four of the agenda in which the date should read 14 February 2013. He explained that the healthy cities initiative does not override any priorities set by individual organisations, it was about pinpointing areas in which work from different partners overlapped to identify opportunities for collaborative working.

Doctor Chris Price, head of the Norwich Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) addressed the committee. He explained that much health work is opportunistic and had to take advantage of money available at the time. He said that the locality board was used to take forward ideas about public health and the CCG worked closely with Norwich City Council to ensure that projects were as effective as they could be.

He explained the structure of the Healthy Norwich steering group, of which he was chair and said that the group included council officers and representatives from other partner organisations. The policy, performance and partnerships manager said that the steering group's purpose was not to commission work but to look at work that other partners were undertaking to identify opportunities for shared resources. If a councillor had a piece of work that they would like to be progressed, the first step would be to take the item to a meeting of the locality board.

Members discussed the health profile for Norwich and asked questions. The topics that the committee covered in their discussions around the healthy cities initiative were:

- Sexually transmitted diseases and infertility
- Smoking
- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Resource intensive service users
- 20mph speed limits
- Mental health
- Alcohol
- The Young Commissioners
- The better care fund

Doctor Chris Price said that the correlation between the rate of sexually transmitted diseases and drug misuse was a particular problem for any urban area and reflected the younger demographic of Norwich. He said that the CCG was held to account but national measures were very limited. The policy, performance and partnerships manager reminded members that the commitment was to improve the health profile, not about measuring the state of health in the city. Some factors were more susceptible to an annual cycle of measurements, such as teenage pregnancy and smoking rates whereas other factors would be long term measurements.

In response to a question from a member, Doctor Chris Price said that the scrutiny committee may be interested in the CCG's annual report which was to include a section on mental health. This was to be published in June. He said that mental health was a priority of the CCG and they invest more money in this area annually than the national average. The CCG's five year strategy had an emphasis on working within localities in the city to ensure that there were links with work being undertaken by the council and that community assets were being used to make robust communities.

The leader of the council said that money received from the second homes project would be used to look closely at mental health and self-harm. The money would fund several projects to ensure that support groups were sustainable going forward.

A member suggested that the topic of 20pmh speed limits would contribute toward the healthy cities initiative. Doctor Chris Price agreed that it would help to encourage children to walk and cycle to school. He said that the CCG could not promise any money but if Norwich City Council developed a resources plan, the CCG would play a role in supporting this work. Members agreed that this would be an effective way for the council to have a positive impact on health within the city.

(Councillor Brociek-Coulton left the meeting at this point.)

RESOLVED to :

- a) ask the scrutiny committee to review the Clinical Commissioning Group's healthy Norwich annual report,
- b) include an item on the 2014 – 15 scrutiny work programme on 20mph speed limits; and
- c) Include an item on nutrition in Norwich on the 2014-15 scrutiny work programme.

4. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REVIEW

The scrutiny officer presented the report. He said that the scrutiny committee had made a very positive contribution to the work of the council. Information on the mechanism in place for tenant inspectors to receive feedback from the council would be added to the tracker along with the points raised at the meeting of the scrutiny committee on 27 February 2014 surrounding housing knowledge. This would be completed before the report went to the next full council meeting.

Members agreed that the new TOPIC analysis for placing an item onto the scrutiny committee work programme was very useful and they would adhere to this procedure in the future. The scrutiny officer agreed to incorporate the TOPIC flowchart into the handbook for scrutiny members.

RESOLVED:

- a) To ask council to accept the annual scrutiny review at their next full meeting,
- b) That the scrutiny committee adopts the *Working style of the scrutiny committee and protocol for those attending scrutiny*; and
- c) That the scrutiny committee adopts the guidance for placing items onto the scrutiny committee work programme.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Members were reminded that the first meeting of the scrutiny committee in the new civic year would set the work programme for 2014-15.

RESOLVED to note the work programme.

CHAIR