

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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<b>Date:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Scrutiny Lead Member Report
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member area:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Christine Bednell, Policy Lead, Children and Families</li><li>• Cllr Zarina Khalid, Performance Lead, Children and Families</li><li>• Cllr Nana Asante, Performance Lead, Community Health and Well Being</li><li>• Cllr Chris Mote, Policy Lead, Community Health and Well Being</li><li>• Cllr Sue Anderson, Performance Lead, Environment and Enterprise</li><li>• Cllr Stephen Wright, Policy Lead, Environment and Enterprise</li><li>• Cllr Tony Ferrari, Performance Lead, Resources</li><li>• Cllr Jerry Miles, Policy Lead, Resources</li></ul>
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosure:</b>	Report from the Scrutiny Lead Members

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

The report accompanies the reports from the Scrutiny Lead Members.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is requested to consider the reports from the Scrutiny Lead Members and agree the actions proposed therein.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

This report outlines details of the work of the Scrutiny Lead Members.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report

### **Performance Issues**

There are no performance issues associated with this report.

### **Environmental Impact**

There is no environmental impact associated with this report

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are no risks associated with this report.

### **Equalities implications**

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

This report outlines the activities of the scrutiny lead councillors; it makes no proposals to change service delivery.

### **Corporate Priorities**

The Scrutiny Lead Members' responsibilities cover all areas of the council's activity.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not required for this report.

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background**

### **Papers**

**Contact:** Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny,  
020 8420 9387, [lynne.margetts@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.margetts@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** None

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES LEAD MEMBERS – PERFORMANCE GROUP**

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

### **Attendees**

Cllr Sue Anderson, Chair, Performance and Finance sub committee; Cllr Christine Bednell, Children and Families Policy Lead; Cllr Zarina Khalid, Children and Families Performance Lead; Cllr Paul Osborn, Vice Chair Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Catherine Halsall, Virtual Head Teacher; David Harrington, Service Manager, Performance Management; Lynne Margetts, Service Manager, Scrutiny; Kamini Rambellas, Interim Divisional Director, Targeted Services

This meeting had been established to identify how regular information can be shared with regard to the attendance and achievement of children looked after (CLA). Following the discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 14<sup>th</sup> November, the Youth Offending Team improvement plan has also been referred to this group to be monitored.

### **ATTENDANCE**

It was reported that CLA school attendance has improved. Figures to April show that 7% of sessions had been missed by both the CLA for more than a year and all CLA. This is still high, but is better than performance last year. Two young people had missed more than 25 days up to the end of October, however, these children are unaccompanied refugees/asylum seekers who are awaiting age assessment to determine their educational placement. One child is also subject to police child protection investigation and cannot attend school. In the interim, 1-2-1 tuition of 10 hours per week has been arranged.

Cllr Osborn asked what happens to young people at year 10. Officers commented that it is more difficult to support young people in the 15 – 17 year age group as they tend to ‘vote with their feet’ when it comes to their education. Intensive work with the designated teachers is undertaken to try to maintain their education. They also commented that placement stability can be an issue for young people in this age group. It was stressed however, that the numbers in this cohort are small.

Cllr Khalid asked what support is provided to young people with behavioural problems. Officers advised that the virtual head teacher can provide additional support but in some cases the young people are more challenging than can be supported by a school. In these circumstances, the statementing process can be accelerated and concerns can be highlighted to the placement panel. In the most difficult circumstances, where a child is too challenging for foster parents, a special school placement might be sought. Cllr Khalid asked if in such challenging circumstances, a young person’s emotional needs will also be met. Officers advised that it can be difficult to get a young person to engage but that they will do everything that a good parent would do to encourage their involvement. A placement will always include therapeutic and educational support.

## **ACHIEVEMENT**

Cllr Osborn asked that in future the figures include performance over time and with other boroughs as he felt that as they are currently presented, the figures do not allow performance to be properly assessed. Officers advised that as the cohort is so small in this regard, it is very difficult to make any judgements. Cllr Osborn accepted this point but also pointed out that the performance information is the starting point for considering how well CLA are achieving and that data suggests where further investigation should take place. He asked if it was possible to get earlier information regarding achievement – what results are anticipated. He felt that as the cohort is so small, that this information should be available fairly simply. It was agreed that this information will be provided on a 'termly' basis.

Cllr Bednell commented that the stability of placement and the age at which a child comes into care are crucial to achievement – the longer a child stays in care the more their 'outcomes' improve. Foster carers and social workers need to be encouraged to 'push' children looked after.

Officers drew to the meeting's attention the range of achievements of CLA which fall outside of the GCSE regime.

### **For Action**

- It was agreed that the quarterly children's scorecard will be provided to scrutiny and this to include graphical representation of the information which will include comparison.
- ½ termly information on attendance will be provide for both primary and secondary schools.
- The table provided by the virtual head teacher – amended to include date the child came into care, whether the placement is in or out of borough and the type of school to be provided to the councillors.
- Termly information regarding anticipated performance will be provided to the performance working group

## **YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**

An updated improvement plan had been provided to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny committee prior to the last committee meeting. This had not been circulated to other members of the committee so it was provided to councillors attending this meeting with an update.

Cllr Osborn also reminded the meeting that a report on data quality, following discussions of the Ofsted improvement plan in November – had been promised for the February meeting of the Performance and Finance committee.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY LEADS BRIEFING**

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

### **Attendees**

Cllr Nana Asante, Cllr Chris Mote  
Lynne Margetts

As this was the first meeting of the leads in their new capacity, it was agreed that the corporate scorecard would be a useful place to begin to identify areas upon which the leads will focus for the remainder of the municipal year. The following areas were identified.

### **Impact on residents of transfer of care between health providers.**

Although this is not specifically an issue for the Community Health and Well Being leads, the leads propose to consider how effectively health bodies are communicating the changes in health provision to residents and what engagement activity is underpinning the changes, in particular with regard to 'emergency' access. In this regard Lynne will send councillors relevant documentation from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' consultation.

### **For action:**

- Members to be provided with the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee response to Shaping a Healthier Future consultation, the Harrow specific response and the 'Out of Hospital' strategy

### **Mental health**

The indicators suggest there are some concerns with regard to people in receipt of secondary mental health care. The Overview and Scrutiny committee has identified mental health as an issue which will be further investigated and the Community Health and Well Being leads will participate in this project and will monitor the performance of this indicator.

### **For action:**

- Community Health and Well Being leads to participate in the proposed Mental Health Project. Performance of this indicator to be monitored

### **Housing**

The leads are concerned about the definition of 'homeless' being used in the borough and how creatively the council is addressing the need for additional homes – whether in the private or social sector. The leads agreed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Private Rented Sector review and to seek further information with regard to the definition of homelessness and the procurement of additional housing. Lynne will send councillors report produced by the Standing Scrutiny Review of the Budget with regard to self financing of the HRA which may be relevant in this regard. She will also forward relevant housing policy documentation which is due to be submitted to Cabinet in December.

**For action:**

- Standing Review of Budget, HRA report to be sent to councillors. Ongoing monitoring of the PRS review and further information to be sought from officers re the definition of homelessness.

**Job Seekers Allowance**

Further clarification of the definition of this indicator will be sought to determine whether it is something which the leads will monitor

**For action:**

- Clarification re definition to be provided to the leads

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Health and Well Being leads will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> December. If possible, the meeting will be attended by the Corporate Director Community Health and Well Being.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND ENTERPRISE SCRUTINY LEADS BRIEFING**

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

### **Attendees**

Cllr Susan Anderson, Cllr Keith Ferry, Cllr Stephen Wright

### **Harrow Card**

Mark Billington, Andrew Trehern, Lynne Margetts

Cllr Ferry introduced the discussion explaining that the potential introduction of a 'Harrow Card' had been under consideration for some time. Having secured £50k funding for a feasibility study, the proposed scheme has now gathered some momentum. Consideration had been given to creating a loyalty card for use in Harrow shops but it is now likely that the card will be linked in to further benefits e.g. free parking. The council had previously been advised that to change the parking meters to accommodate a residents' card would incur significant expense. However, proposals to alter the parking scheme and divide the borough into 4 zones, has significantly reduced the costs of the introduction of the card which can be incorporated into the zoning changes.

The council has sought the advice of Bracknell Forest District Council which has been running the Smart Citizen scheme since 2000. Bracknell Forest council is happy to offer advice and support to Harrow for the cost of the software license. Their software allows for the expansion to take on board future ideas and is, as such, future proof.

Cllr Ferry explained that the council proposes the introduction of four streams for the Harrow Card which will offer library membership, free parking, shopping discounts:

- Resident
- Non-resident – for those who work in the borough
- Youth card – which will offer enhanced leisure opportunities and potential school meals payments and will also act as a proof of age card
- Harrow Council staff card – which in addition to the discounts etc, will also act as an access/ID card

The council is considering the introduction of a charge for the card given the benefits which it will offer. It is likely that distribution will be staggered in order to facilitate its administration and there will be a phased approach to implementing different aspects of the card. Mark is currently producing a spend profile for the £50k which will incorporate analysis of potential take up of the discounts in local retailers and the impact of charging for the card.

In terms of the cost of the scheme, officers advised that there will be a small charge from Bracknell Forest for a licence for the software and the cost of production of the cards.

Cllr Wright commented that a similar scheme in Hillingdon had issued cards to all residents on the electoral register, and that this had reduced administrative

costs which would inevitably be associated with any charging scheme. Officers commented that this scheme had resulted in some problems for the council as cards were sent to residents who had died. Cllr Wright also questioned whether charging for the card would limit take up, he observed that the Hillingdon scheme had broken even in terms of revenue after a year. Cllr Ferry commented that estimates from the parking service suggest that the council will lose £0.5 million in parking receipts.

Cllr Anderson queried the overall cost of implementing the scheme and the return likely. Mark advised that the feasibility study is designed to consider this. The cost of licensing is known as is the cost of production of the card, more difficult to ascertain is potential distribution/take up of the cards, the payback period and the likely participation of retailers. Cllr Ferry commented that whilst the council would like the scheme to be cost neutral, it is important that the scheme is able to support local businesses in the context of the current financial situation.

Cllr Ferry explained that it is proposed to use the My Harrow account to distribute the cards in this way reducing some of the administrative costs. Charging will obviously deliver some revenue. Mark added that simply distributing the card as Hillingdon had would mean that the council would lose an opportunity to build up the profile of the population – information will be tied into the CRM system. Cllr Ferry also commented that by asking residents to apply for a card, the council is safeguarding itself against accusations of inappropriately using residents' information.

Cllr Anderson was concerned about the potential increase in traffic flow in the borough that may result from the free parking scheme. Andrew commented that the borough is dependent upon increased growth and that the free parking scheme is designed to support this growth by making our local centres attractive. Cllr Anderson suggested that this growth could be supported by increased use of public transport, but Andrew suggested that pedestrians are less likely to do the volume of shopping which car users do.

Cllr Wright agreed that car parking charges are making the shopping centres less attractive and he felt that there is high regard for the Hillingdon card which offers reduced charging for residents as residents and traders feel that the council is doing something positive for them. It was suggested that a parking scheme for those premises which are located in service roads where there is no scheme will be beneficial for those businesses where at present the parking spaces are used by staff. Half hour free parking can encourage residents to use these businesses.

Cllr Wright was pleased to hear that the council is considering the introduction of the Harrow Card. Cllr Anderson is concerned to ensure that the scheme takes into account some of the problems of congestion which might ensue.

Andrew advised that a report on the scheme will be taken to the Corporate Strategic Board on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Further data on the scheme will be provided to the councillors when available.



**For Action**

- Further information on the cost and uptake of the scheme to be provided to the scrutiny leads on completion of the feasibility study.

## **SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBERS' REPORT: RESOURCES**

**10<sup>TH</sup> October 2012**

### **Attendees**

Cllr Jerry Miles, Policy Lead Member, Resources  
Cllr Tony Ferrari, Performance Lead Member Resources  
Julie Alderson, Corporate Director of Resources  
Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive  
Guy Fiegehen, Scrutiny Officer

### **The new Resources Directorate**

Julie Alderson and Tom Whiting updated Members on the merger of the former Chief Executive's, Corporate Finance and Legal & Democratic Services Directorates and the creation of six new divisions to be completed by the end of July 2013. Details are at

[http://www.harrowleadership.com/sections/about\\_harrow\\_council/resources\\_directory](http://www.harrowleadership.com/sections/about_harrow_council/resources_directory)

### **Welfare Reform and Debt Recovery**

Welfare Reform could have a major impact on people's incomes and will involve significant changes for the Council's benefit & revenue services. Many people could find themselves worse off after the Council Tax Benefit changes and need to pay tax for the first time.

#### **For Action:**

- The Directors will advise when modelling will be available on the number of residents who will have to start paying Council Tax and the implications for Debt Recovery numbers.

The Directors will also arrange for Members to have access to the Shop4Support web site.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Lead Members were concerned to ensure that CIL is not used to replace other routine Council expenditure. There could also be issues about the boundaries of 'community' areas in using the levy as negative impacts may not always be local to the development concerned.

#### **For Action:**

- Julie Alderson will provide further information on how this will work and any modelling the Council has made of the local impact.

### **Performance of Schools Services**

The departure of academies from the Council had resulted in fewer schools using the Council's services, and the Council is reviewing how well the Council serves the academies overall. A report had been requested by the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) committee regarding the impact on the council of loss of SLA revenue as the schools had become academies. The Members asked that the report to O&S should also cover the quality of service non-academies are receiving and the extent to which the Council can continue to provide services in the context of the loss of revenue.

**For Action:**

- Julie Alderson will provide analysis of the services the Council provides to academy and non-academy schools, the nature of the contracts involved (e.g. how long schools tied in) and the risks to the Council, and Members will follow up as necessary.

**Quarterly Meetings:****For Action:**

- Guy Fiegehen will arrange dates for quarterly meetings between the Resources Lead Members and the Directors.

## **Notes of Health and Social Care Scrutiny Leads Briefing with Corporate Director – Tuesday 2 October 2012**

### **Present:**

Councillor Vina Mithani - Scrutiny Lead for Health and Social Care  
Paul Najsarek – Corporate Director, Community Health and Wellbeing  
Nahreen Matlib – Senior Professional Scrutiny

### **Apologies:**

Councillor Krishna James

## **1. Developments in Adults Services – directorate update**

### *Service plan*

Adults Services is working to a three-year service plan which is currently in its second year. The main areas of activity within this year are:

- Reablement – focusing on existing social care users (whereas last year the drive was to get new users). The intention is that users receive reablement services so that longer-term they do not need an ongoing package of care as reablement has circumvented this need. The success of reablement in Harrow is meeting this intention.
- Personalisation – the aim is to get 100% of those eligible personal budgets. It is noted that that this is not relevant to all social care users e.g. many of those in residential care.
- Shop4Support – the online catalogue for personalised support now includes a Paypal function so that services can be purchased online. There is also a quality assurance section where users can give feedback on the services purchased and this is published online.
- Implementation of consultation outcomes – following last year's major adults' consultation, there have changes to charges so that they are more consistent and based on an individual's ability to pay and not the service that they receive. There have been very few formal complaints about the charging and the implementation has been largely seen as fair.

### *Commissioning panel preparations*

- All directorates have been asked to come up with future service scenarios based on savings of 15%, 25% and 35%.
- Adults Services has saved £20m over the last 4 years and will make savings of £3m this year. £8m worth of savings have already been identified for the future.

### *Public health arrangements*

- Local authority responsibility for public health begins in April 2013. Cabinet has agreed in principle a shared public health service with Barnet Council. A shared Director of Public Health has been appointed.
- There are different levels of shared and dedicated teams within public health. For example, data/information sharing and commissioning/contracting will be shared between the boroughs

whereas there will be dedicated Barnet and Harrow teams looking at local needs. Barnet and Harrow's population needs are not totally dissimilar.

- The shared service will be hosted by Harrow with about 38 posts in the new structure – a consultation with staff is due to begin shortly.

#### *Draft health and wellbeing strategy*

- The headlines in both Barnet and Harrow's health and wellbeing strategies are similar for example, in focusing actions on dementia, cancer, obesity and long term conditions.

## **2. Policy horizon scanning – relevant policy issues/implications at national and local level**

#### *Social care white paper*

- The white paper and draft bill sees many existing services become duties for example personalisation, reablement, safeguarding and preventative services.
- Currently councils set their own eligibility criteria for social care. By 2015 the government will set a national criteria. National standards will be introduced and this will allow for portability of assessments across borough boundaries.
- There will be a new duty to carers. At the moment, councils must assess carers' needs but are not obliged to provide the services to meet these. In future they will have to provide the services as well as the assessments.
- The recommendations from the Dilnott review have yet to be addressed and this may coincide with the next Comprehensive Spending Review. Dilnott's recommendations include raising the floor from £25k (the amount you can have in assets before you must pay for care) and a cap will be set at £100k. It is estimated that this will cost £2bill nationally.
- At the moment, Adults' Services equate to about 40% of the council budget. If the Dilnott recommendations were to be implemented, Adults' Services would make up the majority of the budget.

#### *Health scrutiny consultation*

- The consultation on health scrutiny concluded in September.
- The proposals make some changes to health scrutiny regulations including:
  - Full council to agree to refer contested NHS reconfigurations to the Secretary of State
  - Local authorities to publish a timetable for decision making in whether to refer to Secretary of State
  - Local authorities to take account of financial considerations when referring to the Secretary of State
- Changes are to be implemented from April 2013.

### **3. Scrutiny - items coming up at Committee and review work**

#### *Shaping a Healthier Future*

- The special meeting of the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee on 19 September had proved valuable in bringing together the views of local agencies impacted by the SaHF proposals.
- In addition to evidence gathered through the regional Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the discussions had been used to inform Harrow scrutiny's response to the consultation, which is intended to represent a view from Harrow Council, subject to adoption from the Executive.
- The consultation concludes 8 October.

#### *Items on scrutiny work programme*

- The sub-committee meeting scheduled for 10 October has been cancelled due to lack of business.
- On the agenda for the sub-committee meeting in December, Adults' Services have been asked to bring two reports:
  - Annual local account
  - Implementation of outcomes from the major adults' consultation last year
- Scrutiny may wish to note that Harrow's new Clinical Commissioning Group is about to go into the authorisation process. Their 3-year plan shows them as staying in deficit throughout this period. This may mean that they receive authorisation with qualifications. The plan includes £2.5m of costs that may be passed on to the council and this will mean increased financial risk to the council. These will be up for discussion and suitable quality and equalities processes will need to be developed.

### **4. Any other business**

NM was asked to arrange the scrutiny leads' briefing meeting dates for the rest of the municipal year on a quarterly basis.

#### **For action:**

- Scrutiny leads' briefing dates for the rest of 2012/13 to be set up (NM).