

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 14 May 2015 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.30 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE – in the Chair
Councillor Neil Fawcett (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor John Christie
Councillor Sam Coates
Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE
Councillor Mark Gray
Councillor Patrick Greene (In place of Councillor Charles Mathew)
Councillor Steve Harrod
Councillor John Howson (In place of Councillor Janet Godden)
Councillor Stewart Lilly
Councillor Les Sibley (In place of Councillor Lynda Atkins)

Officers:

Whole of meeting Eira Hale, Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

Part of meeting

Agenda Item

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Officer Attending

Jackie Wilderspin, Strategic Lead for the Thriving Families Programme; Tan Lea, Operational Lead for the Thriving Families Programme; Delia Mann, Early Intervention Manager (Central)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

15/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Atkins (Councillor Sibley substituting), Councillor Godden (Councillor Howson substituting) and Councillor Mathew (Councillor Greene substituting).

16/15 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2015 were approved and signed.

Councillor Christie referred to minute 12/15 on the Council's response to the findings of the Serious Case Review of children A-F and further action taken in response to child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire and noted that he did not agree with the advice of the clerk and lead officer and felt that nothing in the Committee's remit precluded the course of action suggested.

17/15 THAMES VALLEY POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER - POLICE & CRIME PLAN 2013-17 & ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

(Agenda No. 5)

Mr Anthony Stansfeld provided an update on the Police & Crime Plan for 2013-17 as will be outlined in the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report when it is available later in the year. He highlighted key achievements including efforts on domestic burglary and rural crime. He noted the increase in the reporting of sexual offences and the partnership work in this area. He noted that savings had been achieved as planned but that going forward one of the challenges to be faced was a continuing pressure on the budget.

The Committee noted that the Chief Constable Francis Habgood would deliver his presentation prior to questions and debate on both presentations which is recorded under Minute 18/15.

18/15 THAMES VALLEY POLICE - DELIVERY PLAN

(Agenda No. 6)

Chief Constable Francis Habgood outlined the performance of Thames Valley Police against the Delivery Plan for 2014-15 and presented the Delivery Plan for 2015-16.

Responding to questions from members the Chief Constable and Mr Stansfeld made the following points:

- 1) Following changes in custody arrangements he was conducting a force wide review but the evidence so far was that it had not had the impact some feared. A voluntary interview room was available at St Aldates.
- 2) Responding to a question about the number of people arrested where there was no further action the Chief Constable replied that it should be possible to provide percentage figures for those arrested where there was no further action.
- 3) The Chief Constable did not have information on whether at any point cover in Oxford was down to a level of operational concern but indicated that this would be a matter for the operational commander and he would be able to call in support.

- 4) In response to a question concerning female genital mutilation Mr Stansfeld explained the current situation and the difficulties involved.
- 5) Following requests for information on Police response times around the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Mr Stansfeld indicated that he would look at the information that was available.
- 6) Responding to questions on the budget Mr Stansfeld indicated that the situation was complex with some crimes figures falling but others increasing, including cyber-crime. Preventative measures were also important so there was no simple equation between falling crime figures and the ability to make cuts to the budget. It was too early to say what areas of policing might face cuts as the PPB process was still on-going. It may be about delivering services in a different way. Asked about the expected population growth in some parts of Oxfordshire he indicated that the increased precept from more people was unlikely to be sufficient to cover the increased costs of additional police officers. Technology would be essential to make up the shortfall.
- 7) Responding to a question from the Chairman the Chief Constable undertook to share the Operational Plan, which was a public document which will be submitted to the Police and Crime Panel, with members of the committee. He would encourage local councillors to have discussions about the plans with their local partners.
- 8) The Chief Constable undertook to respond directly to Councillor Gray who had a question relating to the recruitment and retention of PCSOs in his Division.
- 9) Asked about the cost of air policing Mr Stansfeld outlined recent developments to organise air policing on a national rather than a force basis and to move towards the use of cheaper fixed wing aircraft for those tasks where it was appropriate and a helicopter was not needed.
- 10) Mr Stansfeld detailed actions in response to cycle crime.
- 11) Responding to comments that with the decriminalisation of parking there were villages where parking was an issue and no-one was enforcing the rules. Councillors indicated that it had been raised locally but queried whether anything could be done more strategically as a little effort would have a big impact. The Chief Constable noted the concerns and undertook to consider what could be done.
- 12) The Chief Constable undertook to provide figures on the trend in youth offending but indicated that it was generally down.

The Chairman thanked Mr Stansfeld and Mr Habgood for their attendance, for all their efforts throughout the year and for agreeing to provide additional information on a number of issues.

19/15 OXFORDSHIRE THRIVING FAMILIES (Agenda No. 7)

Jackie Wilderspin, Strategic Lead for the Thriving Families Programme, Tan Lea, Operational Lead for the Thriving Families Programme and Delia Mann, Early Intervention Manager (Central) provided an outline of the achievements and outcomes of Phase 1 of the Thriving Families programme in Oxfordshire which ran from 2012-2015. There was also an overview of the outcomes plan for Phase 2 of work and an update on recent progress.

During discussion members welcomed the report. Following questions from members it was explained that families were identified for the programme following a data led exercise. Following some concern that suitable families would slip through the net if only school measures were used the Committee was assured that potential families were sought in a number of ways and not just on school attendance.

Members raised the issue of problems re-occurring and queried how long improvement had to be sustained to fulfil the criteria. Jackie Wilderspin explained that each criteria included measures relating to sustaining progress over a period which was set out in the report.

There was discussion of the next phase of the programme and the focus in relation to health being strengthened.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

20/15 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT
(Agenda No. 8)

The Committee considered the Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15. Members welcomed the report and made a correction replacing the word 'substantive' on page 15 of the report with 'substantial'.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 200