

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6TH APRIL 2009

MINUTES

(18.00 – 20.50)

PRESENT Councillor Duncan Smith (in the Chair), Councillors Lydia Bishop, Martin Dunne, Wendy Flynn, Les Godwin, David Hall, Penny Hall (substitute for Chris Ryder) Sandra Holliday and Paul McLain
Karl Hemming, Hazel Kitchin and Jackie Sallis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE Cabinet Member (Sport and Safety)
Councillor Anne Regan

1. **APOLOGIES** Councillors Tina Franklin and Chris Ryder

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Holliday declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 Update on CBC Business Plan actions in 2008/09 and look forward to 2009/10 to support Children and Young People in Cheltenham, as her employer had tendered for Brizen Pavilion extension works.

Councillor P Hall declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 Supporting Roll Out of Common Assessment Framework in Cheltenham and agenda item 9 Update on Integrated Youth Services as Chairman of Naunton Park Youth Project

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd February 2009**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2009 be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None

6. **THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CYPP) 2009-12 (agenda item 6)**

In introducing the item, Councillor McLain, Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Young People's Services provided detailed background information on this multi agency (including Cheltenham Borough Council) Plan being led by Gloucestershire County Council and explained how it might impact on Cheltenham. He indicated that the CYPP builds on the good work already going on in Gloucestershire and sets out how partners will work together on shared key priorities. The plan had been shaped by:-

- A comprehensive needs assessment
- An Equalities Impact assessment
- A wide ranging consultation process

The two objectives of the plan are to:

- a) support our universal services (such as schools) to prevent problems from developing or getting worse
- b) ensure that services are able to intervene early and in a sustained way when extra help is needed.

Councillor McLain provided the detail behind the eight priority action cards of the CYPP which had been identified from the Needs Analysis undertaken in 2008/09 and agreed by the partners as follows:-

- Healthy Lifestyles Choices
- Personal Safety
- Readiness for employment and adult life
- Childhood poverty
- Improved emotional health and well being
- Educational achievement for vulnerable children
- Better safeguarding
- Positive outcomes for children and young people with disabilities

The following responses were provided to Members' questions and comments:-

- The consultation had included private sector schools as well as LEA state schools
- The Online Pupil survey was issued to 30 schools and there were 17800 responses
- The issue of bullying had been a priority under the previous plan and raising the profile had probably led to increased awareness/reporting. Methods of bullying included through the internet and by text and training was being rolled out to teachers and Governors to raise awareness.
- A dedicated team provided support for young adults with learning disabilities in their transition to adulthood. The County Council Cabinet Member for Young People's Services indicated that he would be happy to talk about any individual cases outside of the meeting.
- The CYPP is a partnership document and the health service (PCT/NHS) has been heavily involved in its development including consultation with paediatrics, A & E and GPs.
- Sure Start is currently running in Cheltenham but funding is coming to an end.
- The results of the online survey were available by district and could be made available to anyone interested.
- Resources allocated by the County Council to schools in Cheltenham were governed by government formula. However, a focussed team will be going in to Arthur Dye Primary School to turn it around and take it out of Special Measures.
- Drug & alcohol abuse will be picked up under Priority Action Card 1: Healthy Lifestyle Choices

7. SUPPORTING ROLL OUT OF COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (CAF) IN CHELTENHAM (IN RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY TOPIC REQUEST) (agenda item 7)

Councillor Mrs Regan explained that she had initially requested this scrutiny topic to come before the Committee after reading the County Needs Analysis report last November. This report showed a disturbingly low figure of take-up of CAF in Cheltenham compared with other parts of the County. Considering Cheltenham has the highest number of young people of all the districts and nationally recognised to have two of the worst deprived areas it was essential that the number of assessment was reviewed. She pointed out that since the scrutiny request, events had somewhat been overtaken as the monitoring of CAF's has been included in the CYPP and in the CBC Business Plan under Ambition 6C. She also commented that the two new Locality Hubs which will hopefully be

in place next year (one in the North and the other to the East of Cheltenham) will help to identify and support the families and children most in need and the officers present at the meeting should be able to enlarge on this work. Councillor Regan asked that following the presentation, the Committee consider the following:-

- Ask for an update on the number of CAFs taken in Cheltenham
- Ask the County Council if there will be sufficient staffing levels to carry out the CAFs across the town
- Ensure that enough Government funding is in place to carry through these procedures and not witness it finishing at the end of financial funding programme
- Ask where the PCT sit within the CAF system
- For any other concerns that the Committee find relevant be included in a future report

Debbie McMillan and Adel Keating from Gloucestershire County Council Children & Young Peoples Services gave a presentation covering the following:-

- The Legal Context – Every Child Matters Children Act 2004
- The framework which promotes integrated multi agency ways of working, focussed around needs of children and young people and achievements to date.
- Aims of CAF and how they will be achieved
- Measure of success – local services and community developments will start to meet identified gaps in services in response to unmet need analysis.
- Countywide statistical information on CAFs

(A copy of the presentation is available from Democratic Services)

The following responses were provided to Members' questions and comments:-

- It was confirmed that relevant training of CBC staff involved in CAF had been received by the Assistant Director Human Resources and Organisational Development and the Service Manager Stronger Communities and her team. The Healthy Lifestyles team had yet to receive training and whilst not directly involved with carrying out CAFs it was important for them to have a good understanding of the process.
- CAFs do not replace child protection procedures they encourage early identification and prevention work, promoting the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters
- CAFs are not a statutory assessment they facilitate a consent to share information and provide consistency across key agencies.

Councillor Regan indicated that with the additional information from the presentation and the responses provided to Members further questions she was satisfied that CAF within Cheltenham was moving in the right direction and appropriate monitoring was in place.

The Chairman thanked Debbie McMillan and Adel Keating for their interesting and comprehensive presentation which Members of the Committee had found very informative.

8. UPDATE ON MAD YOUNG PEOPLE'S COUNCIL (agenda item 8)

Three members of MAD Young People's Council gave a presentation to the Committee and Kim Gibbon, Gloucestershire County Council Youth Participation Worker attended to assist in answering any questions. The presentation covered the following issues:-

- Update on progress since CBC restructured the Children & Young People's Service in the 08/09 budget and allocated a Community Investment Grant to the Gloucestershire County Youth Service in April 2008 to provide the management function and support to Cheltenham's MAD Young Peoples Council.

- The re-launch of MAD in October 2008. Following which a survey of young people was undertaken in order to identify 4 priorities which will be the focus of MAD's work from May – August 2009. The 4 priorities are:-
 - Litter and Recycling
 - Transport
 - Places to Go, Things to Do and Help and Advice for Young People
 - Crime and Anti Social Behaviour
- MAD will hold their annual presentation and election results during Local Democracy week in October 2009 and the new MAD year will begin again.

(A copy of the presentation is available from Democratic Services)

The Committee congratulated the members of MAD on the delivery of their presentation. The following responses were provided to Members' questions and comments:-

- 551 young people took part in the survey conducted through schools and youth organisations/projects
- The benefits of belonging to an organisation such as MAD included providing a voice for young people to influence policy and decision making, meeting new people and making friends and boosting confidence
- The initial survey had given MAD the opportunity to introduce themselves and identify the priorities for their campaign. Consultation will be ongoing based on the responses received to identify the needs and expectations of young people in Cheltenham

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Regan was pleased to point out the extended facilities for young people in the South West of Cheltenham which will be available from September 2009 at Brizen recreation ground.

The Chairman suggested that as the work of MAD progressed they should keep in contact with the council to find out about existing interest groups and how young people can get involved for example the Keep Cheltenham Tidy Group.

A number of Members expressed an interest in seeing the results of the MAD survey and Kim Gibbon agreed to provide an electronic copy to Ruth Kenrick, Democracy Officer for circulation to all Members of the Committee.

The Chairman thanked MAD for their presentation.

9. UPDATE ON INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES (agenda item 9)

Lynne Speak, Operations Manager (Youth Work) provided an update on integrated youth Services following a recent re-structure of the service at the County Council and circulated some organisation charts for information.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Lynne Speak confirmed that Young People's Housing and Solutions were high on the agenda and monitoring was in place for young people leaving care and ongoing support was available.

Councillor McLain commended the work of Cheltenham Borough Homes in ensuring that from the age of 18 young people are on the housing priority list where appropriate and their enthusiasm to be involved in the Gloucestershire Children and Young People's Plan.

The Chairman asked Lynne Speak for a contact list of the youth support service to be

circulated to Members of the Committee in due course.

The Chairman thanked Lynne Speak for the update.

10. UPDATE ON CHELTENHAM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP (CCYP) (agenda item 10)

Councillor Regan, Vice-chairman of the CCYP introduced this report which had been circulated separately from the agenda. The partnership had been established in October 2007 as one of the six thematic partnerships sitting under Cheltenham Strategic Partnership. Over the past 18 months, the CCYP has developed its governance arrangements and action plan to ensure that it can add value to the work of local partners. Councillor Regan explained that there were approximately 20 representatives on this partnership but indicated that at the meetings she had attended there had only been up to a maximum of 10 present which was very disappointing. She commented that it was very important for representatives from all the agencies to get round the table to contribute and identify what was needed. Councillor Regan praised the work of the Healthy Communities Partnership Manager and his team in respect of sports and play provision for children and young people in Cheltenham.

The Chairman requested membership details of the partnership in the form of a future briefing note to the Committee.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member Sport and Safety indicated that in his opinion this partnership was a good example of one that worked effectively. He acknowledged that some objectives of the CYPP were in areas that were not the direct responsibility of the council but it was able to have an input in other areas as set out in Aim 6 of the council's Business Plan .

In response to questions, the Policy and Partnership Manager indicated that the action plan was still in progress but would be completed by the beginning of May 2009. The Chairman requested that the Action Plan be circulated to Members of the Committee once all the targets for 2009/10 had been completed.

11. UPDATE ON HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEMES AND SPORT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHELTENHAM (agenda item 11)

Craig Mortiboys, Healthy Communities Partnership Manager gave a presentation covering the following issues:-

- Restructure of Sport and Play
- Sports Development – Summer of Sport 2008, Cheltenham CSPAN, Sport Unlimited
- Play Development – Holiday Programmes 2008/09, links into extended services, Big Lottery Children's Play Portfolio
- Challenges beyond 2010
- Play Builders funding scheme for Gloucestershire (£1.1m)

(A copy of the presentation is available from Democratic Services)

In relation to the Play Builders funding, Councillor McLain indicated that the County Council were responsible for allocating the funding to schemes which met the locally developed criteria. It was important for Members at a District level to get involved and give their support to preferred local schemes.

The Chairman requested that the analysis of the short listed sites in Cheltenham be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee on 10th June 2009.

The following responses were provided to Members' questions and comments:-

- Sport and Play schemes offered by CBC were accessible to everyone including children and young people with special needs.
- The County Youth Participation worker also worked part time within the Sport and Play team so MAD were engaged in shaping the work of the Sport and Play development teams
- The Sport and Play Division worked closely with the Cheltenham school sport partnership and a good relationship with local schools has been developed. CBC funding has been given to some schools to directly deliver programmes relating to sport and play.

The Chairman thanked the Healthy Communities Partnership Manager for his presentation

12. UPDATE ON CBC BUSINESS PLAN ACTIONS IN 2008/09 AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2009/10 TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHELTENHAM (agenda item 12)

The Policy and Partnerships Manager introduced this report which had been circulated separately from the agenda.

The Committee noted the report.

13. BRIEFING FROM CABINET MEMBERS (agenda item 13)

The Cabinet Member Sport and Safety reported on the following issues:-

- Leisure@ year end had not been finalised yet but early indications were that it had performed well since it had re-opened following the flood. An update would be brought back to the Committee at its next meeting on 10th June 2009.
- 12,000 free swims had taken place for under 16's when accompanied by an adult
- At its meeting on 13th October, Council agreed to delegate authority to Cabinet to agree proposals on how to allocate £39,500 underspend arising from 2007/08 for Gloucestershire Youth Services. He indicated that the contract with the Youth Service to continue their operations in South Cheltenham has now been extended until 31st December 2009. The Cabinet propose to use the money for two purposes:
 - Supporting ambition 6A from the 2009/10 Business Plan 'To work with Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council to complete the extension to Brizen Pavilion and to complete the planned upgrade to Naunton Park Pavilion facilities'
 - Support ambition 6B from the 2009/10 Business Plan 'Work through the CCYP to implement specific actions to target child poverty in areas of most severe deprivation'

The Cabinet Member Sport and Safety indicated that his briefing note containing the expected outcomes from projects coming forward would be circulated to Members of the Committee, for information. He welcomed their comments and any suggestions for projects over the next three weeks prior to taking his final proposals to Cabinet on 12th May 2009, for approval.

14. REPORTS BACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (agenda item 14)

1) Play and Free Time Forum

The agenda which had been circulated indicated that no meetings had taken place. A new steering group has been established in the advent of the BIG Lottery funded projects that includes a slightly wider range of delivery partners. An update will be provided at a future meeting. This was partly covered in the presentation given by the Healthy Communities Partnership Manager.

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (agenda item 12)

No scrutiny topic registration forms had been submitted for consideration on this occasion.

16. COMMITTEE FEEDBACK SESSION

Councillor Godwin commented that having three presentations in one meeting was too much information for the Committee to absorb and suggested a maximum of two per meeting in future.

Councillor Dunne commented that presentations needed to be supported by a briefing note or a copy of the slides before the meeting in order to set the context.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 10th June 2009

(Please note change to date in Corporate Diary – 1st June)

Councillor D Smith
Chair