

Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday, 24th April, 2014
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Whipping Declarations**

To provide an opportunity for Members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda.

For requests for further information

Contact: Katie Smith

Tel: 01270 686465

E-Mail: katie.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

4. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research, it would be helpful if members of the public contacted the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting to provide brief details of the matter to be covered.

5. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 31 March 2014** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the minutes as a correct record

6. **Vision for the Fire Authority**

To receive a presentation by M Cashin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, on the actions taken in relation to youth safety support, road safety and youth education about being safe generally

7. **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

To receive a presentation by the Flood Risk Manager on the key actions, measures and outcomes.

8. **Work Programme** (Pages 5 - 8)

To give consideration to the work programme

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Community Safety Scrutiny Committee**
held on Monday, 31st March, 2014 at The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)

Councillors M Grant, Hickson, G Merry, G Baxendale, P Hayes and F Keegan

In Attendance

F Bradley - Corporate Manager, Education Strategy

Apologies

Councillors Miss C Andrew, A Barratt, M Parsons and J Saunders

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

70 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no whipping declarations.

71 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

Mrs Acton attended the meeting to speak in relation to an alleged drugs problem at Poynton High School and the death of her son. Mrs Acton stated that the inclusion of item 6 on the agenda – Management and Prevention of Drug Misuse in Cheshire East Secondary Schools, was ill timed and inappropriate due to the commencement of the inquest into the death of her son.

Mrs Acton suggested that her son died due to inaction, as prior to his death, she had raised concerns regarding a drug problem in Poynton High School. However nothing was done and she contended that the relevant authorities had failed to keep her family safe. She made reference to ongoing complaints and questioned the appropriateness of the role taken by the Chairman.

In light of the above, the Chairman requested a vote on whether or not he should remain in the chair for the meeting. The Committee unanimously agreed that he should remain Chairman.

72 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2014

Consideration was given to the minutes of the last meeting.

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

73 MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF DRUG MISUSE IN CHESHIRE EAST SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to a report setting out how secondary schools in Cheshire East manage and prevent drug misuse, detailing the current context, the policy framework and support available to schools.

F Bradley, Corporate Manager for Education Strategy highlighted the statistics for drug misuse and reported that 3 youngsters within Cheshire East had been excluded from school, which were partly drug related.

With regard to OFSTED inspections, it was noted that schools were graded on the following 5 categories:

- Overall effectiveness
- Achievement
- Quality of teaching
- Leadership and management
- Behaviour and safety

If a school is judged to require improvement; serious of weakness; special measures in any of the areas then the overall judgement will be one of the aforementioned OFSTED category.

It was noted that Poynton High School had been moved from an 'outstanding' school due to the Leadership and Management element of the inspection to require improvement, however all the other elements were judged as good but because of the required improvements this became the overall judgement.

F Bradley reported that all schools had a drugs policy which followed the guidance set out by the Department of Education, however it was difficult to fully understand the drug problems within Cheshire East Schools as there was no requirement for schools to report this information to the Authority.

It was highlighted that, as academies report directly to the Secretary of State for Education and not the Local Authority, Cheshire East could only try to influence academies and not direct them. Members therefore questioned their ability to safeguard children. Academies appeared to be withdrawing from the community with regard to community involvement and facilities. As they were not accountable to the Local Authority it was suggested that the current policy may need reviewing.

Members agreed that school governors had a huge responsibility and played an ever increasing role in holding the head or principal to account, therefore they needed to have suitable skills, character and training in order to fulfil this role.

With regard to paragraph 3.9 of the report, it was agreed that the procedure and relationship between schools and Police currently in place was not prescriptive or robust enough and therefore needed to be strengthened. Members suggested that the Neighbourhood Inspectors should be requested to attend a future meeting of the Committee, to provide evidence on the drug problems from their perspective and discuss how to strengthen relationships and procedures.

RESOLVED

1. That the Corporate Manager for Education Strategy be thanked for attending the Committee meeting.
2. That clear and consistent policy advice issued by Cheshire East Council, on the Autonomy of schools and the primacy of governors responsibilities in relation to drug and alcohol related matters be acknowledged and that Academy autonomy also be acknowledged.
3. That a briefing note be circulated to all Members of the Council, outlining the Local Authorities' role and responsibilities.
4. That it be recommended that when appointing school governors, consideration be given to their skills, qualifications and character.
5. That the Neighbourhood Inspectors and representatives from the Secondary Head Teachers Organisation be requested to attend a future meeting of the Committee to give further evidence on drug misuse within schools.
6. That the Children and Families Policy Development Group be requested to give consideration to revising the current policy as it may no longer be fit for purpose.

74 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme

RESOLVED

That the work programme be approved subject to the Neighbourhood Inspectors and representatives from the Secondary Head Teachers Organisation being invited to a future meeting to further discuss the problem of drugs in schools.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.00 pm

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 24 April 2014
Report of: Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Subject/Title: Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To review items in the Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

2.0 Recommendations

That the 2014/2015 work programme be reviewed.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Not known at this stage.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The schedule attached has been updated to reflect the decisions taken by the Committee at its previous meeting.

10.2 Members are asked to review the schedule attached to this report, and if appropriate, add new items or delete items that no longer require any scrutiny activity. When selecting potential topics, Members should have regard to the Council's new three year plan and also to the general criteria listed below, which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate.

The following questions should be asked in respect of each potential work programme item:

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority;
- Is the issue of key interest to the public;
- Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation;
- Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends;
- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service;

10.3 If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
- The matter is subjudice
- Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale

11 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Last Updated (03/04/2014)

Future Meetings

Date: 31/03/2014 Time:10.30am Venue: Capesthorpe Room, Macclesfield	Date: 24/04/2014 Time:10.30am Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 29/05/2014 Time:10.30am Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 26/06/2014 Time:10.30am Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields
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Item	Notes	Lead Officer/ Portfolio Holder	Action to be Taken	Key Dates/Deadlines
Drugs in schools	To scrutinise whether or not there is a problem with drug use in schools and what the council can do to assist in tackling the problem.	F Bradley	Neighbourhood Inspectors and Representatives of the Head Teachers Organisation to attend.	Ongoing
Reflective Review of Domestic Homicide	To investigate what happened and what the various agencies could have done to prevent it	S Cordon J Gibson Cllr Gilbert	Scrutiny Committee	TBA
Vision for the Fire Authority	To give consideration to the actions taken in relation to youth safety support, road safety and youth education about being safe generally	Cllr L Gilbert M Cashin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer	Presentation at Committee	24 April 2014

Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Last Updated (03/04/2014)

Flood Risk Management strategy	To review the strategy	P Reeves	Scrutiny Committee	24 April 2014
Cheshire Sub Regional Review of Community Safety	To comment on the review of ASB, drugs, alcohol and Domestic Violence	S Cordon Cllr Gilbert	Scrutiny Committee	TBA
Anti Social Behaviour	What is Cheshire East doing to address anti social behaviour. Future plans/budget	Cllr L Gilbert L Woodrow-Hurst	Scrutiny Committee To outline the Local Authority's role as lead organisation for Anti Social behaviour	TBA

Possible future Items

Briefing on Cheshire East Youth Services on alcohol, smoking and substance misuse –Recommendation from Cared or Children Review.