
COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20th October, 2021

Present: Councillors Dominik Allen, Carole Haythornthwaite, Bernadette Parkinson (Chair), June Harrison, Kate Walsh and Paddy Short

In Attendance: Cooptees Bernard Dawson, Paul Barton, Jean Battle and Kimberley Whitehead

Apologies: Cllr Jenny Molineux

112 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies were received from Councillor Jenny Molineux. Councillor Paddy Short substituted for Councillor Molineux.

113 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

114 Minutes of Last Meeting

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 8th September 2021 for approval as a correct record.

Recommended - That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

115 Appointment of Co-optees

Councillor Bernadette Parkinson introduced a report on the appointment of co-optees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report was for information only. Councillor Parkinson highlighted that Bernard Dawson, Paul Barton, Jean Battle and Kimberley Whitehead had been appointed and welcomed them to the Committee.

Recommended - That the report be noted.

116 Suicide Prevention Scrutiny Panel Report

The Scrutiny and Policy Officer, introduced the report on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Scrutiny Panel. The Scrutiny and Policy Officer reported that the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report and presentation from Lancashire County Council Public Health at its meeting on 8th September. The report highlighted concerns that Real Time Surveillance data of suspected suicide rates in Hyndburn have increased. Consequently, the Committee resolved to appoint a short task

and finish group to determine what action the Council takes, and what further action the Council could take to support suicide prevention.

The Officer reported that the Suicide Prevention Panel contained 5 Councillors from this Committee, and was supported by officers from Lancashire County Council Public Health, and the Head of Policy and OD and the Head of Audit and Investigations from Hyndburn Borough Council.

All details of the review were included in the report. The role of this Committee was to consider and approve the recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet.

Questions were raised on the following topics:

- How the Council works with LCC Public Health?
- What is the role of the Member Champion?
- What further role was there for Councillors to support the agenda?
- What is the time frame for the action plan?
- Who would be responsible for monitoring the action plan?

Councillor Kate Walsh, suggested an additional recommendation be added to ensure that this Committee receives regular updates on the action plan, if it is approved by Cabinet.

Recommended - That the Committee submits the following recommendations to Cabinet:

That Cabinet resolve:

- **To sign up to the Mental Health Challenge for Local Authorities.**
- **To appoint an elected member as the Council's 'Mental Health Champion'.**
- **To identify a member of staff within the Council to act as 'Lead Officer' for mental health and wellbeing.**
- **To implement a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1.**

And:

That the Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates on the implementation of the action plan.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed