

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014 JANUARY
2015**

Present:

Councillor Mrs Taylor (in the Chair)

Councillors

Elmes	Doherty	Galley	Mrs Jackson
I Coleman	Stansfield	L Taylor	M Mitchell
D Coleman	Benson	Smith	Robertson BEM

In Attendance:

Ms K. Smith, Head of Adult Care and Support.
Ms L. Gornall, Principal Social Worker.
Mr P. Charlesworth, Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator.
Mr C. Carrington, Service Manager, Built Heritage.
Mr S. Sienkiewicz, Scrutiny Manager.

Councillor F. Jackson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration.

Councillor K. Rowson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

Councillor G. Cain, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Leisure.

Councillor C. Wright, Cabinet Member for Culture and Heritage.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2014

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20th November 2014, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee noted that there were no applications to speak by members of the public on this occasion.

4 EXECUTIVE AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Committee considered the decisions taken since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee by the Executive and Cabinet Members.

A question was raised in relation to decision number EX/58/2014 'Rail North Limited – Blackpool Council Membership', as to what the objectives were in relation to the Council's membership of the organisation. In the absence of the relevant Cabinet Member, Councillor Jones, Mr S. Sienkiewicz, Scrutiny Manager, agreed to obtain an answer to the question and forward this onto the Committee members in due course.

The Committee agreed to note the Executive and Cabinet Member Decisions.

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014JANUARY
2015**

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the items contained within the Forward Plan, issue number 12/2014.

The Committee agreed to note the Forward Plan items.

6 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK, FINDINGS AND SERVICE RESPONSES

Ms L. Gornall, Principal Social Worker (Adults), presented a report to the Committee which detailed the findings and service responses in relation to safeguarding adults at risk for quarters 1 and 2 of 2014/15.

The report commenced by highlighting the key facts, which were explained as follows:

The Safeguarding Adults Framework was accessible to all individuals aged 18 years of age or above, if they had been harmed or were at risk of harm and were unable to protect themselves – whether or not they were eligible to receive social care services.

In 2013/14, 771 safeguarding alerts had been raised with the Council at year end and in Quarters 1 and 2 of 2014/15, 307 alerts had been raised. Of the 307 alerts, 49 were deemed to be not safeguarding, 110 were incident only and 148 were referred for further investigation, which had often required complex and lengthy multi-disciplinary enquiries. 91 of those 148 investigations had been completed at the end of Quarter 2.

The Committee was informed of the types of abuse that were cited within alerts. It was pointed out that often, one alert for one person would cite that more than one type of abuse had occurred and therefore the number of types would therefore exceed the number of cases that were investigated. Of the 148 cases that were referred for investigation, the main types of abuse cited (229) were:

75 neglect, mistreatment and acts of omission (as one type).
47 financial.
47 psychological.
30 physical.
13 institutional (to be known from April 2015 as organisational).
10 sexual abuse.
7 other.

In relation to age and gender, of the 148 cases referred for further investigation, 36 related to adults aged 18-64 and 101 related to adults aged over 65 (where recorded). Of those 148, 53% were female and 43% male (where recorded).

Members were then given details of the outcomes of the investigations. Of the 91 cases both referred for investigation and completed by the end of Quarter 2, outcomes based upon the balance of probabilities were found to be as follows:

19 were found to be not safeguarding and after further enquiries, 20 were found to be

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014 JANUARY
2015**

inconclusive, where insufficient information was available to make a fair judgement on balance.

34 were not substantiated, where all of the allegations in the case were found not to be substantiated.

9 were partly substantiated, where findings of fact related to some of the types of abuse that were alleged were found.

8 were wholly substantiated, where there were findings of fact around all types of abuse within the allegation.

Ms Gornall went on to outline the service responses and future plans, which were summarised as follows:

Amendments to the recording processes had been undertaken since March 2014 in order to expedite the speed at which cases were concluded.

In depth audit processes were now being undertaken to ensure accurate recording, with 150 audits having been undertaken since April 2015.

Listening reviews were being undertaken by an independent advocacy provider.

A 'thinking framework'/decision support tool was being developed, along with a publicity campaign.

A peer review process was being undertaken.

Closer working between front line staff and commissioning and contract monitoring teams was now being undertaken.

Closer operational involvement was being carried out with care provider forums.

There would be a rewrite of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Training was being carried out for internal staff and partner agencies about the new requirements under The Care Act 2014.

To conclude, the Committee was informed of the implications of The Care Act 2014 that would impose additional requirements on local authorities, police and health organisations from April 2015. The main requirements were explained as follows:

Safeguarding Adults Boards would become the statutory responsibilities of local authorities and The Care Act would require co-operation across agencies.

The local authority would co-ordinate all enquiries brought to its attention.

The local authority would have to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made in appropriate cases (previously known as 'investigations').

Domestic abuse and 'self neglect' in some cases would become additional areas for consideration and enquiry.

The Committee was informed that in Blackpool, all partner agencies and commissioned services would be guided by the revised Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adult Policy.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background Papers: None.

7 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014JANUARY 2015

The Committee considered a report which summarised the outcomes of the last meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Panel which took place on 28th October 2014.

Councillor Galley spoke of the implications of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the impact on what this would mean for Blackpool. He explained that a consultation, at local level, would be carried out after the elections in May 2015, the outcome of which would have a bearing on the possibility of Public Space Protection Orders, to deal with local issues of anti-social behaviour.

The Committee agreed on the importance of as many local people as possible taking part in the consultation, including young people. Members voiced concerns regarding enforcement issues and agreed that flexibility and how enforcement would be carried out would be key. Concerns were also expressed about introducing any new powers unless they were considered to be absolutely necessary.

The Committee agreed to note the content of the report

Background papers: None.

8 REFERRAL FROM PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a referral from the Public Protection Sub-Committee regarding a possible scrutiny review of landaus on the promenade.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review on the topic, but to defer commencement of the review until the start of the new Municipal Year.

Background Papers: None.

9. SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE

The Committee considered a progress report on the appointed Scrutiny Panels.

Members queried the date of the next scrutiny panel meeting with Blackpool Zoo and also whether the Blackpool Airport scrutiny panel would continue to meet, given the current status of the airport. Mr S. Sienkiewicz, Scrutiny Manager, agreed to make further enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background papers: None.

10 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

The Committee considered its Workplan for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

The Committee agreed to note the Workplan.

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014JANUARY
2015**

Background papers: None.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday 26th February 2014, at 6.00pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended 6.45 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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