

## MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING - 1ST MAY 2014

### Present:

Councillor Mrs Taylor JP (in the Chair)

Councillors

Mrs Callow JP	Mrs Henderson MBE	M Mitchell
Doherty	Hutton	O'Hara
Evans	Lee	Ryan

### In attendance:

Delyth Curtis, Assistant Chief Executive  
Lynn Gornall, Principal Social Worker and Head of Adult Safeguarding  
Peter Charlesworth, Designated Safeguarding Adults Manager  
Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Services Adviser (Scrutiny)

Councillor Jackson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration  
Councillor Jones, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Equality and Diversity  
Councillor Rowson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care  
Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

### Also Present:

Councillor P Callow

### Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stansfield and Wright who were engaged elsewhere on Council business.

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 20th MARCH 2014

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20th March 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.

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### **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.

With regards to decision number EX/23/2014, Members queried the length of time for which premises would be boarded up. Members considered boarded up buildings to be an eyesore and expressed a preference for the compulsory purchased buildings to be demolished as soon as possible. As the relevant Cabinet Member had not been in attendance at the meeting, Mr C Kelly, Senior Democratic Services Adviser, advised that a written answer would be sought for Committee Members.

A question was also raised in relation to decision number EX/26/2014 'Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Review Panel', with regards to a working group being established by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to ensure that the mapping system was kept up to date and that the Council continued to meet its statutory obligation to maintain a register of assets and designate third party assets. Councillor Jackson reported that the timescales had proved overly optimistic and the working group had not yet been established, but he would make enquiries as to the progress of its establishment.

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

### **5. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the items contained within the Forward Plan, issue number 04/2014.

The Committee agreed to note the Forward Plan items.

### **6. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REPORT ON QUARTERS 1, 2 AND 3 (1/4/13 to 31/12/13) AND DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS SERVICE**

Ms L Gornall, Principal Social Worker and Head of Adult Safeguarding, provided a Safeguarding Adults report presentation to the Committee. She reported that Blackpool Social Care Services supported 5,500 vulnerable adults who had been identified as having social care needs. However, she noted that the Safeguarding Adults framework was accessible to any vulnerable adult who had been harmed, or who was at risk of being harmed, whether or not they received social care services.

Ms Gornall reported that there had been 600 Safeguarding Adult Alerts raised in quarters one, two and three, between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, which represented an increase of 98 alerts from the whole of 2012/2013. The Committee was advised that of those 600 alerts:

- 112 were 'Not Safeguarding', meaning that they were not considered to be safeguarding issues;
- 210 were 'Incident only', meaning that after further investigation there was a safeguarding issue but it was an isolated incident; and
- 266 were progressed for 'Investigation'.

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It was explained to the Committee that the alerts could often cite more than one type of abuse, with allegations often including emotional as well as physical abuse. The Committee was advised that the alerts had a wide range of seriousness, with some alerts being considered quite minor. The Committee was also provided with details as to the location of alleged abuse occurring, with 339 alerts occurring from in residential or nursing care settings and 82 being by a partner of family member.

Ms Gornall advised the Committee as to the outcomes of the investigations that had been undertaken. She reported that, as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, out of the 266 alerts progressed for investigation, 114 had been concluded. She reported that the findings were:

- In 29 cases the allegations were substantiated;
- In 25 cases the allegations were partly substantiated, which meant that there may have been other existing factors that had contributed to the deteriorating conditions;
- In 53 cases the allegations were not substantiated; and
- In seven cases the allegations were found to be inconclusive, due to lack of evidence, or unfounded.

Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms Gornall advised on the reason for why more than half of the cases that had been progressed for investigation had not yet been concluded. She reported this was due to a number of factors, notably either the complex nature of the particular cases or due to a need to make adjustments to the reporting system. She advised Members that it was expected that the completion rate of investigations would be much higher by the end of the year.

The Committee was also provided with details of the training offered by Adult Services, with it being noted that since April 2013 the service had provided training to staff and managers in more than 50 residential and nursing homes in Blackpool. In response to questions from the Committee, it was reported that the training was not compulsory but was offered to all care homes. Adult Services would then identify those care homes not taking up the training offer and focus work to attempt to increase engagement with those homes not participating.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background papers: None.

### **7. APPRENTICESHIPS SCRUTINY PANEL FINAL REPORT**

Mr Kelly presented the final report of Apprenticeships Scrutiny Panel to the Committee. It was noted that the appropriate lead officer for recommendations two, three and five, was the Head of Early Help for Children and Families and that Mr Kelly would amend the report accordingly.

Councillors Hutton and Evans, who had been Members of the Apprenticeships Scrutiny Panel, reported that the review, carried out in a one day style of evidence consideration, had been very informative and expressed their gratitude for those apprentices who had attended the Panel meeting to provide high quality, first hand evidence.

The Committee agreed to approve and forward the final report to the Executive.

Background papers: None.

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### **8. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY PANEL**

Councillor Lee, Lead Member for the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Panel presented an update report to the Committee.

He summarised the information that the Panel had received on the top five priorities of the partnership and drew the Committee's attention to the new Anti Social Behaviour toolkit. Members requested that they were all provided with the toolkit.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

Background papers: None.

### **9. SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE**

The Committee considered an update report on the work of the appointed Scrutiny Panels.

Councillor Hutton provided the Committee with an update on the Winter Gardens Scrutiny Panel and reported that a briefing report would be sent to all Panel Members, following the Executive Decision to create a Council owned company to manage the Winter Gardens.

The Committee noted the update report.

Background papers: None.

### **10. SCRUTINY WORKPLAN**

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

The Committee agreed to note the Workplan.

Background papers: None.

### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014, at 6.00 p.m, subject to approval at Annual Council on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

### **Chairman**

(The meeting ended at 6:40 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
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