

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2014**

Councillors Adje, Basu, Reid and Winskill (Chair)

Co-opted Member Ms. G. Hawken (HAVCO)

CSP109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bull and Mr Sygrave. The Chair welcomed Ms Hawken, who was now representing HAVCO on the Panel.

CSP110. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CSP111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CSP112. DEPUTATIONS/ PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS

None.

CSP113. MINUTES

In respect of area forums/committees, the Cabinet Member for Communities reported that a new arrangement was to be piloted in two wards during 2014/15. Forums/committees in these wards would each be given a small budget plus flexibility regarding how local engagement was undertaken. The learning from this would be analysed and further proposals developed in due course, which would be submitted to the Panel before a decision was made.

The Cabinet Member reported that the mobile library service for housebound people was to be maintained although it would be provided in a different way. A fresh look at the options for this was being undertaken and this would include consideration of the role of the voluntary sector. Schools had been given an indication of the cost of continuing to receive the service and asked if they wished to continue with it. It was agreed that this would be added to the ongoing work plan for the Panel.

AGREED:

1. That the minutes of the meetings of 2 December 2013 and 21 February 2014 be approved; and
2. That area committees/forums and the mobile library service be added to the ongoing work plan for the Panel.

CSP114. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

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Councillor Richard Watson, the Cabinet Member for Communities, updated the Panel on matters arising from his portfolio as follows;

- A community team of Police officers that comprised of one sergeant and four Police constables was being created with the intention of working closely with the Council and its partners on a range of priorities, such as anti social behaviour and acquisitive crime. This was hoped to provide a more joined-up approach.
- Security support was being provided for a number of Homes for Haringey housing estates. This was not a long term solution but a temporary three month arrangement.
- The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime had visited Haringey recently regarding the local policing model. The meeting had been useful and had allowed for a number of questions to be asked, including ones regarding the Mark Duggan case and the establishment of contact point for the Police in Muswell Hill. The Chair reported that he had only found out about the meeting from shortly beforehand. The Cabinet Member agreed to check what arrangements had been made to invite Members to the meeting.
- Three locality boards had been set up across the borough to facilitate engagement between the Police and the local community. In addition, an advertisement was being placed for a Chair for the borough's Safer Neighbourhood Board. An administrator was also being appointed. It was agreed that the Head of Community Safety would be requested to draft a briefing note on the issue of engagement by the Police and that the issue be added to the future work plan.
- The Metropolitan Police's Trident unit was currently working in the borough. The Borough Commander was currently trying to negotiate an extension of their stay. It was agreed that updates on Trident and libraries would be requested for the next meeting of the Panel.
- In respect of leisure, the Fusion business plan was currently being finalised. A temporary solution to the issues that had arisen from proposals regarding the diving pool at Park Road pool had been agreed with the contractor and an engagement process with users to develop a solution had been initiated. In addition, the contract for the transfer of White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre to Fusion was shortly to be signed.

Panel Members expressed their delight that the cricket square at Perth Road Recreation Ground was to be brought back into use. Cllr Reid reported that he was also taking steps to see if cricket clubs in the west of the borough would be able to assist with the developing the sport in the east of the borough.

The Chair reported that there had been discussion regarding the potential use of the New Gallery at Hornsey Library as artists studios. He was disappointed to note that space had recently been given instead to the YMCA. The Cabinet Member reported that no decision had been taken regarding the long term future of the gallery but it had been considered cost effective to let the space out in the interim period. It was possible that letting the space to the YMCA would be the

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best long term solution but there was a lot of other space in libraries that was available and he was very happy to consider its use for artists studios.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for his kind assistance to the work of the Panel during the past Municipal Year.

AGREED:

1. That the issues of Trident and engagement by the Police with the local community be added to the ongoing work plan for the Panel; and
2. That the Interim Head of Community Safety be requested to draft a short briefing note to Panel Members on arrangements for community engagement with the Police Service within the borough.

CSP115. MANAGEMENT OF LEISURE CENTRES

Tim Mills, Director of Business Development, and Mark Munday, Divisional Business Manager for Haringey, reported on behalf of Fusion on progress with the contract to manage the Council's leisure centres and the current refurbishment programme.

Fusion was a charitable organisation and had a dedicated team in Haringey. The team had recently expanded its role in covering the development of tennis, exercise referral and diversionary activities. They ran the 12 week Active for Life programme within the borough. The Panel noted that 5% of the funding for the programme covered the west of the borough and requested that a briefing note on how this had been determined be requested from Public Health, who had commissioned the programme.

Mr Munday reported that the tennis programme was part of a Service Level Agreement with the Council and additional settings for the delivery of the programme could be considered. Recruitment of coaches and development of an appropriate structure was currently being undertaken.

In terms of the current refurbishment programme, they were happy to report that the entire school swimming programme had been maintained whilst the work was taking place. Activities were now being moved back into Tottenham Green. 62% of the organisation's work force lived within the borough and they had held local recruitment days to take on staff. Four apprentice team leaders were currently being taken on and there was an action plan to take on more local people. It was agreed that Fusion would be asked to provide a break down of the levels that local people were employed within the organisation.

The Chair reported that Members had previously been told that it was not possible to set quotas for the employment of local people in regeneration projects. The Panel noted that the measure to increase the number of local people employed was a voluntary agreement with Fusion that had been reached as part of the competitive dialogue process and was not something that could necessarily be enforced.

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There was regular performance reporting by Fusion, which included a quarterly presentation and review. The Panel noted that that there had never been any intention originally to remove the diving facility a Park Road pool but there had been issues arising from the proposed moveable floor and, as a result of this, it had been proposed to relocate the diving pool to Tottenham Green. However, in the light of the concerns that had been raised, it had been decided to remove the moveable floor from the works at Park Road and to retain the diving pool there for at least the time being. Efforts were being made to see if there was another solution that was possible. Lessons had been learnt from how the issues had been dealt with. The Cabinet Member stated that the Council was committed to diving and would maintain dialogue with service users. It was agreed that the issue would be referred back to the relevant Area Forum in due course.

Mr Mills reported on Fusion's plans for the development of White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre. An initial loan had been obtained from the Council for the works and Fusion were also contributing to the funding. All existing agreements relating to use of the site were being honoured. There would be no ongoing capital or revenue commitment for the Council under the lease agreement. The Panel noted that the loan from the Council was at commercial rates of interest. Fusion wished to see the Centre as busy as possible and were committed to being inclusive. Concessionary rates would be maintained. The Panel noted that, whilst different rates could technically be set at the Centre to other facilities in the borough, this was unlikely to happen.

Mr Mills reported that the refurbished Centre would include the following:

- A new full-size floodlit Astroturf pitch;
- A new indoor tennis centre;
- 10 small-sided floodlit artificial football pitches;
- refurbishment of the grandstand
- refurbishment of the Old Pavilion; and
- resurfacing of existing Astroturf football pitch.

He reported that Fusion had contributed 5% of the cost of the final cost of the refurbishment. It was possible that there would be some redundancies arising from the works although it might be possible to redeploy staff to the three other sites that were run by Fusion in the borough. During the works, some groups would be able to stay at the Centre whilst others would have to temporarily relocate. In particular, efforts were currently being made to relocate the group exercise programme. Talks had taken place with service users in order to try and minimise the disruption. Panel Members requested a breakdown of any redundancies that might take place.

The Chair stated that he was delighted that cricket had been included within the plans for the Centre and was happy to pass on correspondence that he had had with Middlesex County Cricket Club regarding possible funding opportunities. He commented that earlier engagement by Fusion had not been as good as it was now. In particular, the issues that had arisen in respect of the diving pool could have been avoided. He hoped that user groups would be set up at each location so that communication could be facilitated as well as consultation regarding any changes to programmes and requested that Fusion report back to the Panel on this issue in three months time. Mr. Mills stated

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that he was happy to do this. He stated that it was unfortunate that engagement processes had not started well but relationships were now much improved.

The Panel thanks officers from Fusion for attending the meeting.

AGREED:

1. That the Director of Public Health be requested to outline the reasons for the comparatively low level of funding for the Active for Life programme in the west of the borough;
2. That Fusion be requested to provide a breakdown of the levels in which local people were employed within the organisation in Haringey and of any redundancies that might occur as a result of the development works at White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre;
3. That the issue of provision of diving facilities at Park Road pool be referred back to the relevant Area Forum in due course; and
4. That Fusion be requested to report back to the Panel in three months time on plans for the development of engagement with service user groups.

CSP116. HARINGEY ADULT LEARNING SERVICE (HALS) STRATEGY

Robert Bennett, the Head of HALS, reported on recent developments in HALS and the strategy for the service. He stated that funding arrangements were subject to regular change and were complicated. There was a cut of 14% in the Adult Skills Budget in the forthcoming year and the service was currently looking at future models for delivery. There was currently a greater emphasis on employability as an outcome and the service was strongly linked to the regeneration agenda.

The biggest demand was for ESOL classes, which was one of the Skills for Life courses, together with numeracy and literacy. Family Learning was delivered through Children's Centres. Nearly 50% of service users were new to adult learning. The highest level of courses offered was now Level 2. This was because the government had introduced loans for Level 3 courses and above. A growing number of courses were now sub-contracted. The Panel noted that Different Strokes, which currently received funding from HALS, had been funded prior to Public Health becoming part of the Council. The service worked with a wide range of services, including the JAN Trust and Mind.

It was noted that the service rarely received visits from Members and suggested that reference be made to it should another "Freshers Fayre" of Council services be arranged for new Councillors as part of the induction process.

Mr Bennett reported that fees were increasingly dictated by the funding that was provided for them. Courses were generally moving towards outcome

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measures determined by their success in getting people into work. In terms of ESOL, fees were currently very low and courses effectively ran at a loss.

The Chair stated that HALS was a service that he did not have a comprehensive understanding of and it was a matter of concern that it appeared to have a low profile amongst Members as a whole. The service appeared to be very valuable, particularly in view of its role within regeneration. It was especially important that residents were in a position to take advantage of plans to develop Tottenham. The Panel noted that that 13.1% of residents had no educational qualifications and the development of skills was therefore very important. If the attainment of parents was not high, there was a high risk that their children would also underperform.

AGREED:

1. That a breakdown of the areas of the borough where service users came from be circulated to Panel Members;
2. That HALS be included within the induction programme for new Councillors following the local government elections; and
3. That adult learning be suggested as a possible issue for an in-depth piece of work by the Panel and that the Interim Assistant Director for Regeneration be requested to draft an outline of particular areas that could be included within this.

CSP117. TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION - A STRATEGY FOR REFORM

Gareth Llywelyn-Roberts, the Integrated Offender Management Strategic Lead, reported on changes to Probation Services. He stated that, under the current arrangements, individuals sentenced to over 12 months imprisonment were regarded as "statutory offenders" and released under licence. They could be recalled if they breached the terms of their licence. For sentences of under 12 months, no such controls currently applied. The government's proposals addressed this issues and extended supervision to low and medium risk offenders. In order to facilitate this, supervision of low to medium risk offenders would be going out to tender. In addition, a new National Probation Service would be created to supervise high risk offenders or be responsible for taking action where lower level offenders breached the terms of their licence or community order.

Medium and low risk offenders would be dealt with through community rehabilitation and moved closer to home to resettlement prisons as they came close to release. Supervision would be based on payment by results. The Panel noted that this could possibly lead to offenders being regularly sent back to prison in order to ensure that providers were able to meet their targets.

There was currently no real control over offenders who had received sentences of under 12 months. This could preclude interventions to address a range of issues, such as housing or substance misuse. There was currently a lack of detail concerning the role of community rehabilitation contractors and there appeared to be potential for sub-contracting of contracts. It was possible that

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contracts could be sub-contracted to multiple providers, each with their own services and delivered at the lowest cost in order to hit targets.

Shadow Community Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) were already in place. The split between CRCs and the National Probation Service was due to happen formally from June. There were already two Assistant Probation Officers covering the borough. This was starting to cause a fragmentation of supervision which would be exacerbated if contracts were split between multiple providers.

The Panel noted that the procurement had been a national process and there had been no opportunity for issues regarding the contract specification to be fed into it. The Cabinet Member for Communities had already fed back concerns about the process.

AGREED:

That the Chair of the Panel be requested to write to the Cabinet Member for Communities to express the Panel's concern at the lack of clarity in regarding the contract specification for community rehabilitation providers, recommending that he persevere with his efforts to ensure that the new arrangements do not impact adversely on the borough's Integrated Offender Management scheme and requesting that relevant correspondence be shared with the Panel.

CSP118. INTEGRATED GANGS UNIT HARINGEY

Gareth Llywelyn-Roberts, the Integrated Offender Management Strategic Lead, reported on the work of the integrated gangs unit. There were 11 clearly defined gangs operating within the borough and 2 organised criminal networks. Many of these were long established. The bulk of members were in their mid-teens.

Partnership activity to address gangs focussed on disruption and gang exit work, which aimed to move young people out of the gang lifestyle. It was a difficult process and they were at risk both from members of their own gang and others. A range of support was provided including drug interventions, training, help with benefits, victim support and relocation. The young people were often not part of gangs out of choice but victims of circumstance. There were high rates of ADHD, low educational attainment and school exclusion amongst gang members. Gangs tended to be very organised and most were based around drugs.

Addressing drug dealing could be difficult as most gangs would not store drugs at home and knew where to hide them. Whilst they could be arrested, this did not solve the problem.

The Panel noted that Haringey was being used as an example of best practice in MOPACS Gangs and Integrated Offender Management Guidance which will be published early in the New Year and congratulated officers on this.

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Ms Hawken reported that HAVCO were arranging a seminar on child sexual exploitation and the work of the MsUnderstood project within the borough would be linked into this.

The Panel welcomed the initiative and wished it every success.

AGREED:

That a report on progress be made to the Panel in a years time.

CSP119. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Panel noted that the draft final report had already been circulated to the Panel and any comments or observations would be very welcome. It was due to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 April for approval.

CSP120. ISSUES FROM AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

None.

CSP121. WORK PLAN

AGREED:

That, with the addition of the issues added during the meeting, the ongoing list of items be approved.

CSP122. VOTE OF THANKS

It being the last meeting of the Panel for the current Municipal Year, the Chair was thanked by the Panel for his work as Chair. The Chair thanked Members and officers for their kind assistance and co-operation.

Clr David Winskill

Chair