

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 (EXTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2011 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors John Kane (Chairman); Eileen Eastwood (Deputy Chair); David Banks; Jackie Bowman; Robert Salkeld and Henry Wormstrup.

Officers: Jessica Hall, Policy and Scrutiny Support Officer; Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager; Julie Betteridge, Head of Regeneration and Community; Craig Robson, Health Improvement Officer and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Lena Hogg and William Southward.

Also present:

Councillor Miss E Woodburn; Mr W Slavin (Chair of the Howgill Family Centre); Mr R Norman (Howgill Family Centre) and Ms J Hendry (Project Co-ordinator North Lakes Foodbank).

OSC Ext 01/11 Chairman's Welcome

Councillor John Kane and the new Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny external committee, welcomed Members, Officers and visitors to the first meeting of this committee in the new municipal year. He also thanked the previous committee for the work they had done.

OSC Ext 02/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2011 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC Ext 03/11 Referral from the West Cumbria Child Poverty Group – Review of Child Poverty in West Cumbria

Committee received a presentation from Mr R Norman entitled "Review of Child Poverty in West Cumbria".

Members were advised that 'poverty' was defined where the household income was less than 60% of the median UK income.

The aims of the West Cumbria Child Poverty Group were a significant reduction in child poverty, a Countywide assessment, identification of the specific factors that cause child poverty, the ability to appraise the programme, to seek a commitment from organisations and the capacity to monitor.

During the question and answer session that followed, Members stated that they would like to see help for the less financially able to ensure children are ready for school at the age of 5.

Members also stated that a number of agencies were working on this issue, but they were unaware of the role of each.

Suggestions were also made regarding the opening of schools and libraries during school holidays and weekends for children to use computers and for better transport in the Copeland area.

Mr W Slavin and Mr R Norman were thanked for their presentation. It was agreed that a briefing would be prepared by the Head of Regeneration and Community outlining how the Council was supporting the work of the Group.

OSC Ext 04/11 North Lakes Foodbank

Ms J Hendry (Project Co-ordinator North Lakes Foodbank) presented to Committee on the work of North Lakes Foodbank, a Christian charity (part of the Trussell Trust) and its aims and objectives.

Members were advised that the foodbank was based in Cockermouth with a distribution centre at the Methodist Church in the town, but with a satellite distribution centre at the New life Church in Whitehaven.

They were advised of the work that the North Lakes Foodbank carried out to support vulnerable people and families in the area and that as a result of introductions at today's meeting, the Howgill Family Centre had signed up as a distribution point for vouchers.

Ms Hendry was thanked for her presentation.

OSC Ext 05/11 North Cumbria Clinical Strategy

Councillor Miss E Woodburn introduced a report to Committee on the North Cumbria Clinical Strategy.

Following a discussion, it was recommended that it was essential the West Cumberland Hospital has the services and departments it needs to support the healthcare needs of Copeland.

It was further recommended that this Committee agree to a letter being written to NHS Cumbria supporting the retention of an Intensive Trauma Unit at the West Cumberland Hospital.

RESOLVED – That this Overview and Scrutiny Committee fully supports the retention of an Intensive Trauma Unit at the West Cumberland Hospital and a letter being written to NHS Cumbria stating this.

OSC Ext 06/11 Draft Work Programme

The draft Work Plan was circulated and discussed.

With regard Appendix A, Item 6 of the report, it was stated that All Members of the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend the ‘Scrutiny of the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership and that a pre-meeting for Copeland members would be arranged.

RESOLVED – That the draft Work Plan be noted.

OSC Ext 07/10 Forward Plan

Committee considered the Forward Plan of the Council’s Executive.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

The meeting closed at 4:00 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....