

Review Committee – 13 February 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **13 February 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs R Brown

Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr T Livings

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr P K Savill
Cllr P F A Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Chief Inspector J Walker, District Commander, Essex Police and Chairman of Rochford Crime and Disorder Partnership

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr T Chapman	- Essex County Council, Portfolio holder for Children and Families
Cllr R Pearson	- Essex County Council
Cllr M J Webster	- Rochford District Council
Cllr H L A Glynn	- Rochford District Council
Cllr J P Cottis	- Rochford District Council
J Zammit	- Essex County Council Partnership Co-ordinator

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	- Chief Executive
P Gowers	- Overview and Scrutiny Officer
C Milton-White	- Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator
J O'Brien	- Committee Administrator

30 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Reference was made to a previous meeting of the Committee (minute 403/06) at which it was observed that the responses requested from Chief Inspector Walker had not been received. Officers would investigate and circulate additional information to the Committee.

31 REVIEW OF ISSUES AROUND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In the context of the Committee's review of issues around anti social behaviour, County Councillor Mrs Tracy Chapman had been invited to the meeting. The Chairman introduced and welcomed her to the Committee.

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Also present was County Councillor Mr Roy Pearson.

County Councillor Tracy Chapman had been furnished with questions prior to the meeting, which are appended to the minutes along with the associated responses.

In responding to supplementary questions from the Committee, County Councillor Tracy Chapman advised that:-

- Notwithstanding that 57 South Street, Rochford was closed at the moment, the County was planning to provide a childrens centre at Doggetts school as soon as possible. It was hoped that wider usage of Doggetts school could incorporate extended school facilities and wider community use.
- The philosophy of the Essex County Youth Service was to base provision on the requirements of young people. The County had a duty to consult young people about service provision.
- The County are keen that Members involved in the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) have appropriate background briefing / training.
- Responsibility for the Essex County Youth Service had come under the Childrens and Family Portfolio within the last 3 years. Development of the Children and Young Persons Plan was a key element of the development of service provision.
- Information would be provided to the District about the precise requirements associated with an individual's involvement in the voluntary sector in order for local communities to develop services for young people.
- The County see it as important that services for young people are as universal as possible and are working with the voluntary sector in this regard.
- Work has been undertaken on the Common Assessment Framework and Childrens Index. A key feature of the Common Assessment Framework had been the development of central records held for a child, that would comprise 1 form and be accessible by different agencies for review / comment.
- The County felt that the extended services on offer at Witham were a prime example of where services were meeting needs of the young community. A visit to the site was encouraged and would be arranged for those Members with interest.

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During discussion the Committee also noted that:-

- 57 South Street, Rochford was a three way partnership between the County, Parish and District. The District Council was currently reviewing its future use.
- It was acknowledged that there was a distinction between the terminology of youth 'centres' and youth 'clubs' and that it would be worth making this distinction clearer for easier understanding.
- The current base for the District's youth services was Rayleigh.
- The County would be introducing mobile units across the County to provide services for young people in outlying areas and where there was a demand.
- Certain elements of funding streams received by the Essex County Youth Service were specifically allied to social deprivation indices for areas within Boroughs and Districts.
- Given that it was often considered appropriate for the County to utilise various forms of public building facilities for youth services, there was merit in the County reviewing its asset base as a whole. Connectivity between various activities seemed key. It was recognised that this was now underway.
- A lot of work was being done by churches to pro-actively offer facilities to young people.
- There were many areas of common interest between the Crime & Disorder agenda as it related to young people and the children and young persons agenda as administered through the CYPSP.

County Councillor Tracy Chapman wished to make specific reference to the changes now rolling out in respect to County childrens services. Local area teams were being established, of which there would be two covering Rochford District. The essential features around these teams were:-

- to be locally managed
- budget to be delegated down
- to comprise multi agency teams, to include education welfare officers
- to be multifunctional
- to have 1 manager for each team
- to be area responsive

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- Ultimately the size of a team would be dependent on the need of an area
- Relationship working, in a similar fashion to the Youth Offending Teams (YOTs).

It was noted that the County was in the process of communicating with the District on the new managerial arrangements associated with this restructuring of services. Recognising the potential complexity combined with a need for understanding of this area, the Committee concurred with the observation of the Chief Executive that there would be merit in consideration being given to arranging appropriate Member training to raise Members awareness around the County changes taking place in this area covering the Childrens' agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman

Date

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