

Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 15 July 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **15 July 2003** when there were present:

Cllr T Livings (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs T J Capon (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr P K Savill

Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr P F A Webster

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr C I Black

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D G Stansby.

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Neville	Residential Service Unit Manager
C Thomas	Emergency Planning & Health & Safety Manager
C Nicholson	Trainee Solicitor
S Garland	Community Safety Officer
M Martin	Committee Administrator

341 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 June 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

342 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs M S Vince declared a personal interest in item 9 of the Agenda by virtue of being a member of the StAR Partnership, who had commissioned the study referred to in that item.

343 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions.

Public Regulation, Inspection and Protection Best Value Review – Interim Report

Officers agreed to update Members on the outcome of the investigations being undertaken.

Outstanding issues were carried forward.

344 RECOMMENDATION FROM HOUSING BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) and noted that a representative from the Audit Commission would be available to attend the meeting of Full Council scheduled to be held on 30 October 2003.

Resolved

That a representative from the Audit Commission attend the meeting of Full Council to be held in October 2003. (CD(F&ES))

345 HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which invited Members to consider the draft Homelessness Strategy.

Members noted that the strategy could be considered in greater detail by the Housing Best Value Sub-Committee at its meeting to be held on 17 July 2003, before referring it to the next meeting of Full Council for adoption.

In response to Member concern over the lack of information at this stage around the resource implications, the Committee noted that once these had been evaluated, Members would receive further details.

Resolved

That the Homelessness Strategy be considered in detail by the Housing Best Value Sub-Committee at its meeting to be held on 17 July 2003, before being referred to the meeting of Council on 29 July 2003 for adoption. (HHHCC)

346 SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS ROCHFORD DISTRICT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which introduced a study which had been commissioned by the StAR Partnership around substance misuse and the needs of young people in the Rochford District.

Members noted that Home Office grant funding would be available to cover many of the key recommendations from the report and that some were already underway and others being advanced. In particular, Members noted the success of the family factfile which had led to it being reprinted.

Whilst expressing approval of many of these recommendations, Members were concerned over the lack of statistical evidence to support many of the

claims made in the report, together with the lack of information surrounding the ongoing resource implications for the District.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That dissatisfaction be expressed to the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership over the quality of the report commissioned by the StAR Partnership.
- (2) That statistical validity be requested for the various claims made and that detailed analysis of needs be identified.
- (3) That the role of parents and schools in educating young people be more widely explored.
- (4) That the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership be requested to focus on realistic objectives that can be properly assessed for resource implications.
- (5) That a further report be brought to this Committee following discussion of the study by the Rochford & District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership at its meeting in September 2003.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman

Date