

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2018

Present:

Councillor Rawlins- In the Chair

Councillors Austin-Behan, Cookson, Evans, Fletcher-Hackwood, Grimshaw, Hassan, Ilyas, Sharif Mahamed and Siddiqi

Councillor S Murphy, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor N Murphy, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Councillor Reid, Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Stone, Member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Hitchen and Flanagan, Ward Councillors for Miles Platting and Newton Heath

Councillors Karney and Green, Ward Councillors for Harpurhey

Councillor Connolly, Ward Councillor for Cheetham

Chief Inspector Caroline Hemingway, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

Inspector Cecelia Oakley, GMP

Colin Parr, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

CESC/18/01 Minutes

Decisions

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017 as a correct record.

CESC/18/02 Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Update

The Committee received a presentation from GMP which provided an overview of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Greater Manchester and the Travel Safe Partnership.

Guests from GMP and TfGM referred to the main points and themes within the presentation, which included:

- The role of PCSOs;
- The PCSO Resource Allocation Formula; and
- The role of the Travel Safe Unit.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- Concerns about cuts to police and PCSO numbers;
- Residents' concerns about crime in their area; and
- The creation of additional PCSO posts in the Travel Safe Unit, rather than neighbourhood policing.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods informed Members that there had been a 40% reduction in PCSOs due to cuts to police funding. He informed Members about the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)'s current consultation on their Police and Crime Plan and encouraged Members and residents to respond to it. Chief Inspector Hemingway outlined how GMP used its finite resources, prioritising the greatest threats and risk of harm, and worked to minimise the removal of PCSOs from neighbourhood policing, for example, by using Traffic PCSOs to protect a scene of crime. She clarified that the Travel Safe Unit was funded differently from other PCSO posts within GMP and reported that it had a wider impact, for example, by making students feel safer when using the buses.

Decisions

1. To request that information on the GMCA's consultation on the Police and Crime Plan be circulated to all Members of the Council and that Members promote this and encourage residents to respond to it.
2. To receive a further update on the New Policing Model at a future meeting.
3. To ask the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods to liaise with GMP and Elected Members on how Members can communicate their knowledge of crime in their ward and residents' concerns to the police.

CEESC/18/03 Community Safety Overview

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- CSP activity in relation to its eight priorities;
- The Community Safety Strategy 2018/21; and
- Next steps, including sharing a draft version of the Community Safety Strategy 2018/21 with Committee Members.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- Work to tackle extremism, including both Islamist and far right extremism, including work to develop a Greater Manchester (GM) version of the Prevent Strategy;
- A request for details of the Leads for each of the CSP's priorities;
- Whether the report inadvertently stigmatised students by linking them with anti-social behaviour; and
- How levels of anti-social behaviour could be measured now that the Council was no longer carrying out a telephone survey of residents.

The Prevent and Cohesion Coordinator informed Members about the GM commission, chaired by Councillor Rishi Shori, the GMCA's portfolio holder for young people and social cohesion, which was focusing on tackling hate and extremism.

She advised that it would be reviewing two key areas of the delivery of the Prevent Strategy across GM, its compliance with the Prevent statutory duty and the Channel Programme to safeguard people who were vulnerable to radicalisation, from which it would make recommendations. She advised that it was also investigating the factors which impacted on social cohesion through a community engagement programme and that a final report was expected to be available in March or April. She outlined work to tackle far right extremism and also encouraged Members to attend meetings of the Radequal Community Network. The Community Safety Lead acknowledged that measuring anti-social behaviour was challenging as the telephone surveys had provided useful data, which had supplemented the data from GMP on reported incidents, and that officers were investigating a range of other performance indicators which could be used.

Decisions

1. To note that the draft version of the Community Safety Strategy 2018/21 will be circulated to Members of the Committee.
2. To request that the GMCA report be circulated to the Committee, once it is available, and that Members be updated on this work.
3. To request that the contact details of the Leads for the each of the CSP's priorities be circulated to Members.
4. To request that officers ensure that future reports do not inadvertently stigmatise students.

CESC/18/04 Youth Justice and Anti-Social Behaviour of Young People

The Committee received a report of the Director of Children's Services which provided a progress update on developments within the Youth Justice Service including the joint work with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- First time entrants;
- Reducing reoffending;
- Custodial sentences; and
- Key challenges.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- Concern that black young people were disproportionately likely to be in custody;
- A request for more information on the Complex Safeguarding Hub;
- A request for more information on work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour;
- A request for more information on the protocol for how the Youth Justice Service and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) would work together to manage young people on the edge of criminal activity or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee informed Members that her Committee had requested that this item be considered by the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee and raised a number of points including:

- Feedback from visits to Wetherby Young Offenders Institute (YOI) and Barton Moss Secure Children's Home;
- The proposal for a Secure School in the North West; and
- Plans for the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider Youth Justice and policing in more detail.

The Head of Youth Justice informed Members that an analysis of the ethnicity of the young people coming into the Youth Justice system had been carried out in November 2017 which showed that their ethnicity was proportionate to the local community; however, black young people were disproportionately likely to be in custody and she advised that her service was seeking to address this through working with the courts and the Crown Prosecution Service. She informed Members that the location of the proposed Secure School had not yet been decided.

Decisions

1. To request a report on the issue of black young people being disproportionately likely to be in custody;
2. To request further information on the Complex Safeguarding Hub in a future report and to request that the information previously submitted to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be circulated to Members;
3. To request a further report on Anti-Social Behaviour, to include referral pathways for children and young people involved in Anti-Social Behaviour;
4. To request a report on the protocol for how the Youth Justice Service and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) would work together to manage young people on the edge of criminal activity or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
5. To request that the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group determine which Committee should consider the above reports; and
6. To request that the Youth Justice Business Plan referred to in the report be circulated to Members of the Committee.

CESC/18/05 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy – Part 1

The Committee received a report of the Statutory Deputy Leader which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within her portfolio.

Members discussed the new funding process for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), which fell within the Statutory Deputy Leader's portfolio.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- How Ward Councillors could be better engaged in the process, including utilising their knowledge of the VCS groups in their ward;
- What assistance would be provided to groups whose applications had been unsuccessful;
- Whether these groups could appeal the decision; and
- A request for further information on the membership of the Programme Board.

Ward Councillors from north and east Manchester raised the following points:

- Concern about the impact of ceasing to provide funding to local VCS groups on staff and service users;
- Concern that deprived areas would be losing facilities; and
- Concern about the process, including the pre-application support for VCS groups and how the decisions were communicated.

The Statutory Deputy Leader outlined work that would be carried out in relation to organisations which would no longer receive funding, including consideration of the implications for staff, volunteers, service users and their premises. She reported that officers were contacting unsuccessful organisations to offer support, including advice on other sources of funding. She advised that an equality impact assessment would also be carried out. She agreed that a mechanism should be identified to enable Ward Councillors to feed into the process. She informed Members that there were some geographical gaps in VCS provision in the city due to a lack of applications from some areas. She offered to circulate a map showing the geographical coverage of funded VCS services, further information on the process, including how it was developed, and the report to the Programme Board, which outlined the decisions and how these were reached.

Decisions

1. To request that the previous report on the Our Manchester VCS Funding, including details of the options considered, be re-circulated to the Committee.
2. To receive a further report on VCS Funding at the Committee's 1 February meeting, to include the process and timeline for the first round of VCS funding, information on the next stages, including support for organisations which were not awarded funding, and the timescale for equality impact assessments.
3. To request that consideration be given to how the process can be improved in future to better engage with Ward Councillors and for an update on this to be incorporated into a future report.
4. To ask the Statutory Deputy Leader to look into whether there is any opportunity for unsuccessful organisations to appeal the decision.
5. To recommend that the Statutory Deputy Leader and relevant Ward Councillors meet to discuss the issues about support at the pre-application stage and that the Committee be updated on this.

6. To request that the Statutory Deputy Leader circulate information on the Members of the Programme Board.
7. To note that the Statutory Deputy Leader will circulate a map showing the geographical coverage of funded VCS services, further information on the process, including how it was developed, and the report to the Programme Board, which outlines the decisions and how these were reached.

CESC/18/06 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy – Part 2

The Committee received a report of the Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within his portfolio.

The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure highlighted the following points within his report:

- That Manchester had been designated as a UNESCO City of Literature;
- The take-up of the MCRactive Pay and Play card; and
- Work to develop the MCRactive website.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- A request for further information in a future report on the activity levels of Manchester residents and the numbers involved in schemes to encourage greater physical activity;
- Work to encourage under-represented groups to participate in cultural events; and
- Whether the current format of the reports from Executive Members met the Committee's needs.

The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure informed Members that there had been an increase in participation in cultural events from a diverse range of communities but that further work was still needed.

Decisions

1. To request that further information on the activity levels of Manchester residents and the numbers involved in schemes to encourage greater physical activity be included in a future report.
2. To note that the Committee would be reviewing whether the current format of the reports from Executive Members met the Committee's needs.

CESC/18/07 Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained a list of key decisions yet to be taken within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme,

which the Committee was asked to approve.

A Member asked whether the scope of forthcoming reports could be reviewed. The Chair encouraged Members to inform her if they wanted to change the scope of any future reports. She also advised that, if any published reports did not include the information requested, to let her know as soon as possible so that she could raise this with officers.

Decision

To approve the work programme.