SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on 18 May 2016 at 9.30am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: L Neal (Chairman), B Bernard, B Duffin, D Fulcher, C Gould, K Kiddie, T Lewis, G Minshull and J Wilby

Cabinet Members in Attendance: Councillors: Y Bendle and L Hornby

Other Members in attendance: Councillor: V Thomson

Officers in Attendance: The Director of Growth and Localism (T Horspole), The Director of Community Services (P Boyce), the Housing Access and Standards Manager (T Cooke), the Early Help and Prevention Manager (M Pursehouse), the Independent Living Team Leader (S Cayford) and the Scrutiny and Information Rights Officer (E Goddard)

1171 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 6 April 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
1172 REVIEW OF THE SOUTH NORFOLK HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2014-17

Following a brief introduction from Cabinet Member, Cllr Bendle, who advised members that there had been many significant changes in health and wellbeing during the two years since the Strategy had been put in place, the Housing and Access Standards Manager presented the report of the Housing and Public Health Partnerships Officer which sought to provide the Committee with an update and overview of the progress made in delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-17.

Members were given an outline of the history and background of public health leading up to the Social Care Act 2012 which had resulted in the formation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, Clinical Commissioning Groups, and had placed a statutory role on Local Authorities to deliver public health outcomes. The Housing and Access Standards Manager advised that the Norfolk Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, launched in 2014, covered the issues affecting the County as a whole, and that the South Norfolk Strategy focussed on the issues most significant in the District.

After summarising the salient points in the report, officers advised the Committee of how working together with partners and engaging with the community was already having a positive impact on the lives of many residents by enabling them to access help and empowering people to remain independent and in their own homes. Officers were also pleased to report that the Government had recognised the benefits of District Councils providing health and wellbeing services, and had made funding available through the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) to assist with the delivery of the Council’s early help approach, which had resulted in attracting partners to work on projects with the Council.

Members were asked to consider how the remaining year of the Strategy might be delivered and also to discuss whether a further three-year Strategy should commence in 2017 or, bearing in mind the ongoing changes and fluidity of health and wellbeing, a different approach should be adopted in the future.

In response to a member’s question regarding the Help Hub, officers advised that, although this facility had not existed at the commencement of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, collaborative working with partners in the Hub had greatly assisted with delivery of the Strategy and was continuing to assist residents in leading happy and healthy lives. It was noted that the long term impact on the whole system cost was difficult to quantify in the short term but that the Hub was having short term successes in terms of early help and prevention activities for residents in most need. This work was in the process of being documented by SNC on behalf of the multi-partner agencies involved in the Help Hub. The aim being to ensure the effects from empowering and enabling people to remain in their own homes would have a positive future financial impact on acute services such as hospitals and care homes. Members queried whether the staffing levels in the Hub were appropriate and it was noted that the partners were previously
all working in South Norfolk independently but were now joined-up and working together to provide more streamlined and effective services.

Officers confirmed that Hub staff and the Council’s officers were working closely with volunteer organisations throughout the District, including Good Neighbour Schemes, and were promoting the Council’s services through Parish Councils and local groups to ensure that local people were made aware of the availability of the amenities and services in their areas.

The Committee considered the work of the Health, Wellbeing and Early Intervention Policy Committee and were pleased to note that the Committee had helped to shape the Council’s policies and had provided ideas and recommendations when considering issues such as debt and welfare advice. Officers advised that the Policy Committee had been of great assistance in helping them to keep their work in line with members’ requirements.

In response to a member’s question, the Director of Community Services clarified that the term, ‘place based approach’, meant planning needs around specific places and ensuring that the services provided suited the needs and issues of the people who resided in the area.

Members discussed the need for a further three-year Strategy. The Committee agreed that a Strategy was required so that objectives and priorities were defined, but generally felt that, in a fluid and constantly changing environment, a rigid, long-term Strategy might not be advantageous. The Director of Community Services advised that the Council could consider options for a Joint Health and Wellbeing Plan across the CCG locality but added that the Council would need to ensure that this would cover its own priorities. It was noted that the current Norfolk Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy’s policies broadly fitted with the needs of South Norfolk’s residents.

The Chairman concluded that clear focus for health and wellbeing work was required and that a Strategy achieved that. In relation to a time-limited strategy document, after discussion, it was recommended that officers establish a Health and Wellbeing Action Plan annually, to be derived from the Council’s Corporate and Business Plans. The Committee suggested that this should be reviewed on an annual basis.
It was then:

RESOLVED

- to note the progress made against the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and commend and thank officers for their hard work and outcomes achieved so far;
- to recommend that officers establish a Health and Wellbeing Action Plan annually, to be derived from the Council’s Corporate and Business Plans, and to report and review on outcomes achieved as a result;
- to support the ongoing delivery of health and wellbeing activity;
- and
- to support the investigation of a shared place based approach to health and wellbeing with the relevant partners, as detailed in the report.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRACKER, AND CABINET CORE AGENDA

The Committee noted that Work Programme, Tracker and Cabinet Core Agenda.

The Scrutiny and Information Rights Officer informed members that there were currently no items scheduled for the meeting to be held on 28 June and that she would inform members, closer to the date, if the meeting was to be cancelled.

(The meeting concluded at 10:48 am)

Chairman